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Famous

may 2000 | volume 1 number 5 |

canada's entertainment
lifestyle magazine

John Travolta
on the sci-fi thriller
Battlefield Earth

Stephen Baldwin
talks *Flintstones*

Kevin Spacey
discusses
The Big Kahuna

Cirque du Soleil
in IMAX 3D

Buzz star Daryn Jones
on his fave films



Spotlight on:
Kim Basinger
(see page 12)

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Crowe as
Maximus in
Gladiator

Russell Crowe
Gladiator on Film
and in Hollywood

page 28

plus NEW VIDEO RELEASES, HOROSCOPE, MUSIC, VIDEOGAMES, WEB, BOOKS

JOHN TRAVOLTA

BATTLEFIELD EARTH

TAKE BACK THE PLANET

FRANCHISE PICTURES PRESENTS A FRANCHISE PICTURES JONATHAN D. KRANE PRODUCTION JTP FILMS PRODUCTION
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WITH ELIA CARRAL AND SPECIAL GUEST ERIC HENRY PRODUCED BY PATRICK TATOUPOLOS WRITTEN BY JOHN RUSSELL DIRECTED BY GILES NUTTGENS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES HOLT
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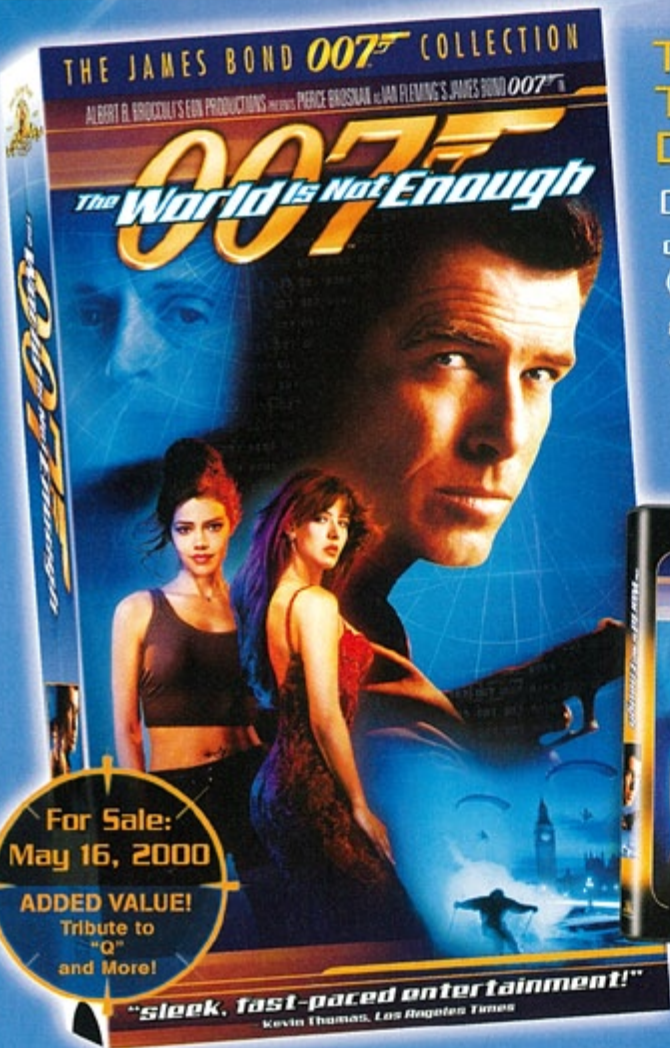
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Imagine dazzling acrobats flying toward you in heart-stopping 3D. Imagine no more — IMAX has captured Cirque du Soleil on film, and it was no walk in the park
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In his new sci-fi thriller, *Battlefield Earth*, John Travolta plays the demented leader of an alien race called the Psychlos. Here, he talks about why it took 10 years to get this big-budget movie made
By David Giammarco
•plus a look at Vancouver's Barry Pepper, the hero of *Battlefield Earth*

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28 CROWE CONFIDENTIAL

Actually, not anymore. After turns in two acclaimed films — *L.A. Confidential* and *The Insider* — and a powerful new role in *Gladiator*, Oscar-nominated Russell Crowe is now a Hollywood star. Yet he still lives in Australia's Outback. David Giammarco finds out why

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THE CROWE FLIES TO Ancient Rome



How do you tell a great actor? By the price tag he demands? No. By how good he looks on screen? Obviously not. You can tell a great actor by how different he appears from role to role. In other words, his *acting*.

Accordingly, Russell Crowe is a great actor.

The 36-year-old Aussie first became popular on North American soil as Bud White, the conflicted but sexy young cop in 1997's *L.A. Confidential*. Last year, he returned in *The Insider*, but this time was almost unrecognizable as a pudgy, middle-aged scientist with all the sex appeal of, well, a pudgy, middle-aged scientist. The performance earned him an Oscar nomination.

Now comes his third big role in a "Hollywood" picture — as General Maximus in Ridley Scott's *Gladiator*. Once again, Crowe looks completely different — black hair, muscular — and his performance is as powerful as his appearance. David Giammarco traveled to Los Angeles to speak with the versatile actor about the sacrifices he made for his art this go-round. Read all about it in "Hollywood's Gladiator," page 28.

Speaking of actors who change their look for a film, have you seen pictures of John Travolta in *Battlefield Earth*? Of course, Travolta's make-over was done the easy way — with tons of makeup and latex, instead of months of working out. Travolta looks absolutely grizzly as Terl, a vicious Psychlo alien, in this adaptation of L. Ron Hubbard's sci-fi novel of the same name. It's a book the powerful actor has been trying to bring to the screen for the past 10 years. In "Battlefield Earth: Sci-fi-entology?," page 20, David Giammarco talks with Travolta about why the project was so important to him, and any ties it may have to his religion, Scientology.

From a project that seemed to take forever to get made, to one that was shot in the blink of an eye — Kevin Spacey's *The Big Kahuna* was filmed in just 16 days in the winter of 1999. And if you thought he was at the top of his game for *American Beauty* (the Academy certainly did, awarding him the Best Actor Oscar), then check out his performance as a slick salesman in this intimate movie, shot just days after *American Beauty* had wrapped. *The Big Kahuna* received its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival last fall, and that's where Spacey spoke with reporters about the film's unusual filming schedule. See "Small Film, Big Talent," page 16.

When Cirque du Soleil was formed in Baie-Saint-Paul, Quebec, in 1984, it offered the world something completely new — a travelling circus that used a combination of dare-devil athleticism and artistry (instead of animals) to weave a surreal and beautiful world. Now those shows have been brought to the 3D IMAX world with *Cirque du Soleil: Journey of Man*. And it wasn't easy. For "Cirque du Soleil on IMAX," page 18, Neil Morton spoke with Peter Wagg, the film's writer/producer, about committing the magic to film.

And finally, we hooked up with the youngest Baldwin brother, Stephen, to talk about his latest, *The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas*. The actor usually sticks to edgy, independent movies, but says he had a blast playing Barney Rubble in the prequel to 1994's prehistoric hit, *The Flintstones*. In our "Famous Focus," page 26, Baldwin talks about why he took this role, and reminisces about watching *The Flintstones* cartoon as a kid. — **Marni Weisz, Editor**

Our Contest Winner!

Congratulations to the winner of our **Famous Roles** contest — **Cassandra Marchuk of Montreal, Quebec**. Marchuk and a friend will enjoy free movies for a year at any Famous Players theatre.

Marchuk's name was drawn after she gave the following correct answers to our Feb/March quiz:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Claire Danes | Little Women |
| 2 | Nick Nolte | New York Stories |
| 3 | Robert De Niro | Wag the Dog |
| 4 | Steve Martin | My Blue Heaven |
| 5 | Tom Berenger | At Play in the Fields of the Lord |
| 6 | Demi Moore | G.I. Jane |
| 7 | Dennis Quaid | Great Balls of Fire |
| 8 | Kevin Spacey | Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil |
| 9 | Natalie Portman | The Professional |
| 10 | Winona Ryder | Mermaids |

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MAY'S MIX OF COMEDIES, THRILLERS AND DRAMAS



Matthew McConaughey leads his team in *U-571*

U-571 (April 21)

Who's In It? Matthew McConaughey, Jon Bon Jovi, Harvey Keitel

Who Directed? Jonathan Mostow (*Breakdown*)

What's It About? A small team of submarine experts led by Lt. Andrew Tyler (McConaughey) are sent aboard a disabled Nazi U-boat in the Atlantic to nab a top-secret encryption device that could be the TSN turning point for the Allies.

Gossip (April 21)

Who's In It? Joshua Jackson, Kate Hudson

Who Directed? Davis Guggenheim (debut)

What's It About? *Dawson Creek*'s Joshua Jackson co-stars in this drama about a group of college students who start a rumour as part of a school project. But things get wickedly out of control after a young man, Beau (Jackson), is falsely accused of rape and the so-called "victim", Naomi (Hudson), kills herself.

Love and Basketball (April 21)

Who's In It? Omar Epps, Sanaa Lathan

Who Directed? Gina Prince-Bythewood (debut)

What's It About? This Spike Lee-backed drama/romance revolves around Quincy McCall (Epps) and Monica Wright (Lathan), who share a passion for basketball and each other, but find it's hard to juggle both. The story is told in four quarters to mimic a b-ball game — it follows their pursuit of Hoop Dreams from childhood, through high school, college and then the pros.

Where the Heart Is (April 28)

Who's In It? Natalie Portman, Ashley Judd

Who Directed? Matt Williams (debut)

What's It About? A very pregnant and broke teen runaway (Portman) wants to get from Tennessee to California, but ends up living in a Wal-Mart in small-town Oklahoma — the place her beau abandoned her halfway through their

pilgrimage. During filming, Wal-Mart had to take down pictures of Queen Amidala, whom Portman played in *The Phantom Menace*.

The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (April 28)

Who's In It? Mark Addy, Kristen Johnston, Stephen Baldwin, Jane Krakowski

Who Directed? Brian Levant (*The Flintstones*)

What's It About? This prequel to 1994's live action original (both are based on the Sixties animated TV series) takes us back to the origins of

the Flintstone clan, where poor-boy Freddy (Addy) is courting young heiress Wilma (Johnston) during a trip to the romantic resort Rock Vegas, while Barney (Baldwin) is doing likewise to Betty (Krakowski). See **Stephen Baldwin** interview, page 26.

I Dreamed of Africa (May 5)

Who's In It? Kim Basinger, Vincent Perez

Who Directed? Hugh Hudson (*Chariots of Fire*)

What's It About? This biographical drama sees Basinger playing Italian-born Kuki Gallman, who moves to Kenya to promote wildlife preservation. She loves her adopted homeland, and her role as an environmental activist, but with love comes pain and hardship.

Gladiator (May 5)

Who's In It? Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix

Who Directed? Ridley Scott (*Blade Runner*)

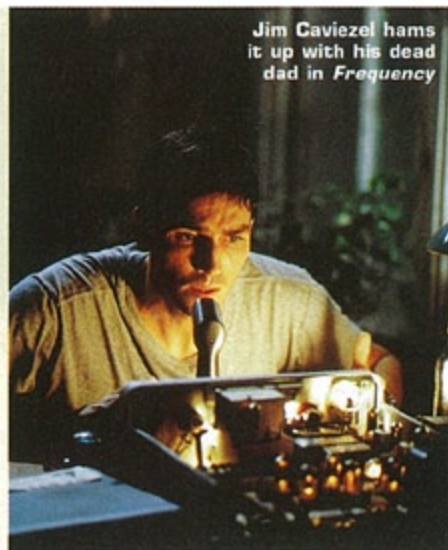
What's It About? It's AD 180, and Maximus (Crowe) is ticked off with the new Emperor of Rome, Commodus (Phoenix), for taking away his rank and forcing him into exile and slavery. So, he works his way out of the do-or-die gladiator arenas and returns to Rome to try and liberate the people — and gladiate Commodus to places six feet under. See our **Russell Crowe** interview, page 28. ▶▶

Frequency (April 28)

Who's In It? Dennis Quaid, Jim Caviezel

Who Directed? Gregory Hoblit (*Primal Fear*)

What's It About? The tagline for this unusual tale of time-travel is WHAT IF YOU COULD REACH BACK IN TIME? WHAT IF YOU COULD CHANGE THE PAST? WHAT IF IT CHANGED EVERYTHING? Well, all this happens in *Frequency*, so you'll have to pay close attention to this *Twilight Zone*-ish sci-fi thriller if you want to catch all the twists and turns. Shot in Toronto last year, the story tells of John Sullivan (Caviezel, *The Thin Red Line*), an alcoholic homicide detective who never got over the early death of his father, a fireman who perished while battling a warehouse blaze. One day, John is playing with his dear old dad's ham radio when he gets a message (p.s. look for ham radio sales to go up after this one) from a firefighter (Quaid, *Any Given Sunday*) during a freak sunspot. When the firefighter starts talking about the Amazin' Mets of the 1969 World Series, John realizes he's communicating with his late father just prior to the tragic fire 30 years ago. The two work together via radio messages to change the course of history — first to save Dad's life and then to save Mom from a potential killer. Quaid, who's always in tip-top shape, had to do a lot of running on set while carrying 40 pounds of gear. And it was hot. *Real* hot. Much of the movie was shot during a heatwave, giving Quaid new respect for backdraft boys.



Jim Caviezel hams it up with his dead dad in *Frequency*

JIM CARREY



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Dancers shake their booties in *Center Stage*

Center Stage (May 12)

Who's In It? Peter Gallagher, Amanda Schull
Who Directed? Nicholas Hytner (*The Crucible*, *The Object of My Affection*)

What's It About? A group of teens are trying to gain entry into a prestigious professional dance school. The competition is fierce, meaning points will be docked for Footloose moves or Dirty Dancing. Much of the cast has had serious ballet experience — Schull, for example, comes from the San Francisco Ballet.

Battlefield Earth (May 12)

Who's In It? John Travolta, Barry Pepper, Forest Whitaker

Who Directed? Roger Christian (*Masterminds*)
What's It About? It's the year 3000 and an alien race, the Psychlos, have taken over Earth. Most of the human race is dead, and the survivors are left languishing in remote villages. It's up to our hero, Jonnie Goodboy (Pepper), to get enough human tribes together to fight back. Travolta plays a bad-ass Psychlo named Terl in a movie that's based on the 1992 novel by L. Ron Hubbard. See our John Travolta interview, page 20.

The Big Kahuna (May 12)

Who's In It? Kevin Spacey, Danny DeVito, Peter Facinelli

Who Directed? John Swanbeck (debut)
What's It About? Three industrial lubricant salesman travel to a convention in Wichita, Kansas, where they hope to land one of the biggest clients of their lives. While waiting in

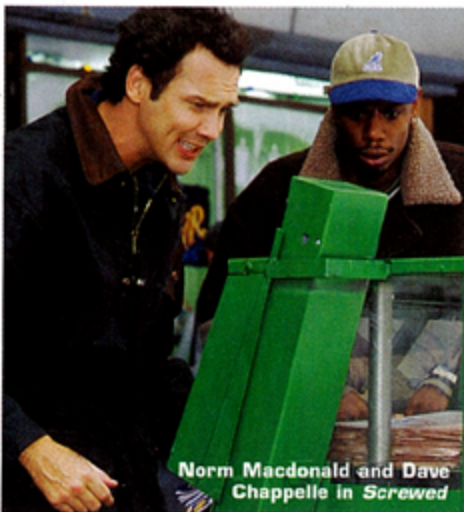
their hotel room for the big kahuna to show, they swap philosophies about sales and life. For more on *The Big Kahuna*, see page 16.

Screwed (May 12)

Who's In It? Norm Macdonald, Elaine Stritch, Danny DeVito, Dave Chappelle

Who Directed? Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski (*Man on the Moon*)

What's It About? A chauffeur named Willard Fillmore (Macdonald) schemes to get back at his unappreciative boss (Stritch) by kidnapping her prized pooch and demanding a ransom. But she mistakenly thinks it's Fillmore who's been kidnapped. Will she bother paying up?



Norm Macdonald and Dave Chappelle in *Screwed*

Dinosaur (animated) (May 19)

Voices of: D.B. Sweeney, Julianna Margulies, Joan Plowright

Who Directed? Eric Leighton

What's It About? A young dinosaur (voice of Sweeney) is raised by monkeys after being separated from his family. When he learns that a giant asteroid is heading toward Earth, he tries to find his old dino family and warn them.

Road Trip (May 19)

Who's In It? Tom Green, Breckin Meyer, Rachel Blanchard

Who Directed? Todd Phillips (debut)

What's It About? Four buds have to go from Ithaca, New York, to Austin, Texas, to retrieve an illicit tape — of a sexual nature — that was mistakenly sent to one of the guy's (Meyer) girlfriends (Blanchard). Canadian Tom Green narrates the shenanigans.

Small Time Crooks (May 19)

Who's In It? Woody Allen, Hugh Grant, Tracey Ullman

Who Directed? Woody Allen (*Celebrity*, *Sweet and Lowdown*)

What's It About? Allen wrote, directed and starred in this light ensemble comedy. He plays an ex-con dishwasher in New York who, along with his greedy manicurist wife (Ullman), plot the perfect bank robbery.

Mission: Impossible 2

(aka *M:i-2*) (May 24)

Who's In It? Tom Cruise, Ving Rhames, Anthony Hopkins

Who Directed? John Woo (*Face/Off*)

What's It About? In this sequel to the 1996 blockbuster based on the popular Martin Landau TV series of the sixties, Ethan Hunt (Cruise) and his special operatives have to track down a deadly virus that could destroy the world if it's released by terrorists. But of course, things don't go smoothly for Hunt, et al.

Shanghai Noon (May 26)

Who's In It? Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson, Lucy Liu

Who Directed? Tom Dey (debut)

What's It About? Imperial Guard Chon Wang (Chan) travels to the U.S. to rescue a kidnapped Chinese princess (Liu). But there are many obstacles in his way: a partner (Wilson) he doesn't think he can trust, a wife he doesn't want to be with and a horse he can't ride.

Also playing in limited release: *East is East* (April 21), *Time Code* (April 28), *The Virgin Suicides* (May 5) and *Committed* (May 12).

All release dates subject to change. Some movies play only in limited markets.

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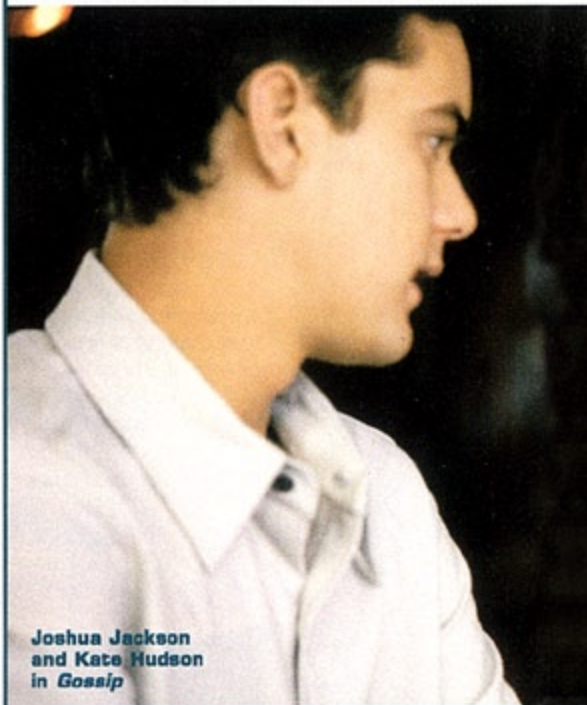
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Where the Heart Is • Gossip •

JOSHUA JACKSON

Now appearing in... The recently released university drama *The Skulls*, and now *Gossip*, about three college roommates who plant a rumour about a rape as part of a class project on gossip and then watch it spin wickedly out of control. The movie co-stars Kate Hudson (*200 Cigarettes*) and James Marsden (*Disturbing Behaviour*). Jackson plays Beau, the poor guy who's falsely accused of rape.

Bio bits: Born June 11, 1978 in Vancouver, Jackson wanted to be an actor from a young age. At 11, he begged his casting-director mother, Fiona, to let him go to auditions. Soon after, he landed commercial work, including a series of TV spots promoting B.C. tourism. At 14, he earned the role of Charlie Conway in Disney's *The Mighty Ducks* (starring Emilio Estevez), where he played the coach's prodigy. He was far from a prodigy at high school in Vancouver — twice, he was expelled for indiscretions. He is still known as quite a rebel on the Wilmington, North Carolina, set of *Dawson's Creek*, where he plays outsider Pacey Witter, who's trying to find his place in the quaint town of Capeside. He is a prankster for one thing, and a mooner for another; co-star Michelle Williams has



Joshua Jackson and Kate Hudson in *Gossip*

before flirting her way through *Beautiful Girls* with the much older Timothy Hutton. Hailed as the new Audrey Hepburn, Portman already has dozen of shrines dedicated to her on the web. She is currently attending an Ivy-league university, and has said that the only acting she'll do in the next few years is the *Star Wars* prequels (we'll see about that). By the way, "Portman" isn't her real name; she's using it for privacy reasons (it's her grandmother's maiden name).

Breakthrough role: Her performance as Mathilda in *The Professional* (1994) opened a bunch of Hollywood doors, which have been opened even further since she played Queen Amidala in *Star Wars: Episode 1 – The Phantom Menace*. (She hadn't even seen the original *Star Wars* movies before being cast.)

Sample roles: Novalee in *Where the Heart Is* (2000); Queen Amidala in *The Phantom Menace* (1999); Ann in *Anywhere But Here* (1999); Taffy in *Mars Attacks!* (1996); Laura in *Everyone Says I Love You* (1996); Marty in *Beautiful Girls* (1996); Mathilda in *The Professional* (1994)

Love Life: Highly secretive

Turned down: Originally turned down role of Ann August in *Anywhere But Here* because of love scene which required nudity (it was subsequently cut after Susan Sarandon said she wouldn't do the film without Portman); a role in *The Horse Whisperer* (1998); the role of Lolita in *Lolita* (1997) — didn't want to exploit children; the role of Wendy (it went to Christina Ricci) in 1997's *Ice Storm* — subject matter was too dark; and the role of Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* (1996).

Awards: Received a Best Supporting Actress nomination at this year's Golden Globes for her role in *Anywhere But Here*

On her future in acting: "I'm taking it day by day. Right now I like acting, but if something else sparks my interest in college, I'll do that. It's so limiting to say, This is it for the rest of my life. There are so many things that interest me — I love math, science, literature, languages." — *Vanity Fair* magazine, May 1999



Natalie Portman as a pregnant teen runaway in *Where the Heart Is*

NATALIE PORTMAN

Now appearing in... *Where the Heart Is*, in which she plays Novalee Nation, a pregnant teenage runaway stuck in an Oklahoma Walmart. She gives birth in the store after being abandoned by her boyfriend halfway through a cross-country trip.

Bio bits: Born June 9, 1981 in Jerusalem, her family moved to the U.S. when she was three. They ended up settling in Long Island, New York, where they still reside — her father is a doctor, her mother an artist. Portman, an only child, was discovered at a pizza parlour there by a modeling agent from Revlon. She opted not to go into modeling, instead preferring dancing and acting. She loved *Dirty Dancing* as a kid, and imagined being Jennifer Grey dancing with Patrick Swayze. At 13, she made her feature film debut in Luc Besson's *The Professional*

aring in...

I Dreamed of Africa

said: "I've seen that boy's butt more times than I care to say." He fancies the idea of one day attending university, which would allow him to exchange ideas on a variety of topics (how 'bout whether real teens use the big words that the ones in Capeside do).

Breakthrough role: Pacey Witter on the hit *Dawson's Creek*, which stars fellow new sensations James Van Der Beek, Katie Holmes and Williams.

Sample roles: Luke in *The Skulls* (2000); Beau in *Gossip* (2000); Blaine in *Cruel Intentions* (1999); Damon in *Urban Legend* (1998); Joey in *Apt Pupil* (1998); Charlie Conway in *The Mighty Ducks* franchise (1992, 1994, 1996)

Love Life: Briefly dated his *Dawson's* castmate Katie Holmes in 1998 (his character is now involved with hers on the show)

Awards: Was one of *Teen People* magazine's "21 Hottest Stars Under 21" last year

On women: "I like blond girls. I like brunette girls, too. I'm a fan of women — hair colour is negotiable." — *YM Magazine*, 1998



Kim Basinger in *I Dreamed of Africa*

KIM BASINGER

Now appearing in... *I Dreamed of Africa*, in which she plays the wildlife preservationist Kuki Gallman. It's based on the true story of an Italian woman who goes to Kenya with her husband and child to be an environmental activist for African animals only to find that life there is no walk in the zoo. (Basinger, by the way, has been an animal rights advocate for years.) She'll also star in the upcoming supernatural thriller *Bless the Child* with Jimmy Smits and Christina Ricci.

Bio bits: Born December 8, 1953, in Athens, Georgia, she was an extreme introvert as a young child, but came out of her shell in high school where she was a diver, dancer and gymnast. Her father, a loan company manager, once played in big-band jazz bands, and her mother, a former champion swimmer and model, was a flamboyant housewife. Basinger, the middle of five children, won the Junior Miss Georgia pageant and moved to New York, where she became a fashion model (she did the catwalk, the magazine covers, the shampoo ads). Then it was on to L.A., where she appeared on shows like *The Six Million Dollar Man* and *Charlie's Angels*. After an eight-page spread in *Playboy* in 1983, she went on to star in *The Natural* (1984) with Robert Redford, the erotic *9 1/2 Weeks* (1986) with Mickey Rourke and *Batman* (1989) with Michael Keaton. She had a nine-year marriage to makeup artist Ron Britton in the eighties and a short fling with Prince, then married actor Alec Baldwin in 1994, whom she met, of all places, on the set of *The Marrying Man* (1991). In 1995, their daughter, Ireland Eliesse, was born. In 1997, Basinger was superlative as hooker Veronica Lake in the noir smash *L.A. Confidential*.

Breakthrough role:

Elizabeth in *9 1/2 Weeks* — an art gallery worker who gets involved in an intense sexual relationship with a mystery man who likes putting food all over her naked body. It was panned by the critics but did well at the box office, officially kick-starting Basinger's career. She still gets letters from people

who wonder if she's into the same sorts of kinky things as her character.

In the news for: Purchasing the tiny town of Braselton, Georgia, in 1989, for \$20 mil. She was later forced to sell her interest in it for much less than that, in part, because of a 1993 lawsuit brought against her by the producers of *Boxing Helena*, who sued her for breach of contract when she pulled out of the project. She appealed the \$8 million verdict against her, and later reached an out-of-court settlement, but still had to declare bankruptcy. Soon after Ireland Eliesse was born in 1995, hubby Alec decked a photographer who wanted shots of the baby.

Sample roles: Lynn in *L.A. Confidential* (1997); Carol in *The Getaway* (1994); Honey Horne in *Wayne's World 2* (1993); Karen in *The Real McCoy* (1993); Holli in *Cool World* (1992); Heather in *Final Analysis* (1992); Vicki in *The Marrying Man* (1991); Vicki Vale in *Batman* (1989); Celeste in *My Stepmother Is an Alien* (1988); Elizabeth in *9 1/2 Weeks* (1986); Memo in *The Natural* (1984)

Turned down: Sharon Stone's role in *Basic Instinct* (1992)

Awards: Best Supporting Actress at the 1998 Oscars and The Golden Globes for *L.A. Confidential*

On the relationship between her husband and daughter:

"She has almost sent him into therapy. He's very needy for her love, and sometimes she just wants to watch *Annie*, or whatever, and she can't be bothered with 'Give me a kissy.' He's never been rejected in his life, by any woman! I eat it up." — *Ladies Home Journal*, January 2000



SHOW THEM **the**

The biggest Hollywood players are commanding whopping — and quickly escalating — salaries for projects that sometimes bank and sometimes tank. The group of eight A-list heavyweights we've compiled below have an average price of \$13.5 million for big studio films. This allows them to have their mansions, private jets, high-priced automobiles and exotic get-aways, while still enabling them to make smaller, but often more rewarding, pictures that can't afford their huge price tags.

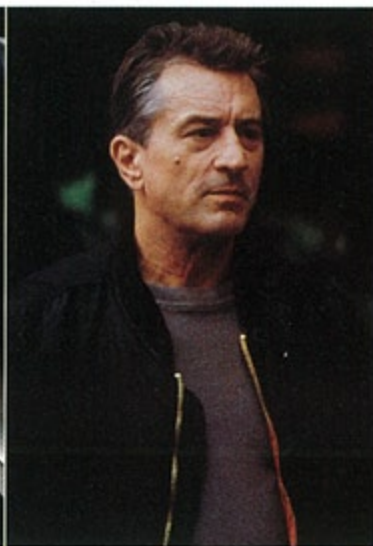
Your job is to figure out which actor makes what. Fill in the \$\$ options below and then check your answers at bottom right. (P.S. No cheating!)



JODIE FOSTER

What she's done: *Taxi Driver* (1976), *The Accused* (1988), *Silence of the Lambs* (1991), *Nell* (1994), *Contact* (1997), *Anna and the King* (1999). She turned down the *Lambs* sequel, *Hannibal*, a movie that would have paid her many millions, to direct the quirky *Flora Plum*, which will star Russell Crowe and Claire Danes.

Biggest box office hit in a leading role: *Silence of the Lambs* (\$272 million)



ROBERT DE NIRO

What he's done: *Taxi Driver* (1976), *Raging Bull* (1980), *The Untouchables* (1987), *Goodfellas* (1990), *Awakenings* (1990), *Cape Fear* (1991), *The Fan* (1996), *Wag the Dog* (1997), *Jackie Brown* (1997), *Ronin* (1998), *Analyze This* (1999). He's currently shooting *The Score*, with Edward Norton, about a reformed criminal who turns bad again for one more heist; and plays Fearless Leader in the upcoming live action/cartoon *Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle*.

Biggest box office hit in a leading role: *Analyze This* (\$177 million)



EDWARD NORTON

What he's done: *Primal Fear* (1996), *Everyone Says I Love You* (1996), *People vs. Larry Flynt* (1996), *Rounders* (1998), *American History X* (1998), *Fight Club* (1999). In his new film, a comedy called *Keeping the Faith*, he directs and stars opposite Jenna Elfman and Ben Stiller. And for the upcoming *The Score*, he received his highest salary yet.

Biggest box office hit in a leading role: *Primal Fear* (\$102 million)



MIKE MYERS

What he's done: *Wayne's World* movies, *Austin Powers* movies, *54* (1998), *So I Married an Axe Murderer* (1993). Upcoming is *Sprockets*, where he'll play the bizarre German talk show host Dieter — based on the character he created during his *SNL* days. His asking price for *Sprockets* doubled after last year's success of *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*.

Biggest box office hit in a leading role: *The Spy Who Shagged Me* (1999, \$308 million)

match'em up

\$6.5 million

\$15 million

\$12 million

\$7 million

money... BUT HOW MUCH?

Match the movie star to their price



MATT DAMON

What he's done: *Courage Under Fire* (1996), *The Rainmaker* (1997), *Good Will Hunting* (1997), *Saving Private Ryan* (1998), *Rounders* (1998), *Dogma* (1999), *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1999). He appears in the upcoming *The Legend of Bagger Vance*, a golf drama co-starring \$20-million-man Will Smith and directed by Robert Redford; and *All the Pretty Horses*, a rancher romance directed by Billy Bob Thornton.

Biggest box office hit in a leading role: *Good Will Hunting* (\$225 million)



BRENDAN FRASER

What he's done: *George of the Jungle* (1997), *Gods and Monsters* (1998), *The Mummy* (1999), *Dudley Do-Right* (1999). You'll soon see him in the live action/animation hybrid *Monkeybone*; a remake of 1967's *Bedazzled*; and, next year, in *The Mummy 2*.

Biggest box office hit in a leading role: *The Mummy* (\$401 million)



MEL GIBSON

What he's done: *Mad Max* franchise, *Lethal Weapon* franchise, *Braveheart* (1995), *Ransom* (1996), *Conspiracy Theory* (1997), *Payback* (1999). Next up is *The Patriot*, a revolutionary drama about The American Revolution that paid Gibson his highest salary yet.

Biggest box office hit in a leading role: *Ransom* (\$308 million)



SANDRA BULLOCK

What she's done: *Speed* movies, *The Net* (1995), *A Time to Kill* (1996), *Forces of Nature* (1999), *28 Days* (2000). You'll soon see her in *Miss Congeniality*, a comedy about an FBI agent who goes undercover at a beauty pageant.

Biggest box office hit in a leading role: *Speed* (\$283 million)

* Asking Prices are as of March 2000

* Revenues indicate worldwide box office figures

\$10 million

\$20 million

\$25 million

\$12.5 million

answers

Jodie Foster	\$15 million
Robert De Niro	\$10 million
Edward Norton	\$6.5 million
Mike Myers	\$20 million
Matt Damon	\$7 million
Brendan Fraser	\$12.5 million
Mel Gibson	\$25 million
Sandra Bullock	\$12 million



Spacey and DeVito philosophize on sales in *The Big Kahuna*

SMALL FILM, big talent

Kevin Spacey and Danny DeVito talk about shooting *The Big Kahuna* in just 16 days

filming had just wrapped on *American Beauty* and Kevin Spacey had only a few days off before starting rehearsals for the Broadway production of Eugene O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh*. Did he return home to Greenwich Village to decompress? Did he find a steamy beach and spend some towel-time reflecting on the movie that would eventually win five Academy Awards, including a Best Actor nod for him?

Nope. Instead, he decided to squeeze *The Big Kahuna*, yet another feature film, into that tiny window of opportunity. This adaptation of Roger Rueff's play, *Hospitality Suite*, tells the story of three industrial lubricant salesman who travel to Wichita, Kansas, for a convention and spend the weekend holed up in their hotel room swapping sales philosophies and waiting for an important client (the big kahuna) to arrive. There's Larry (Spacey), a slick fast-talker; Phil (Danny DeVito), a burned-out account manager; and Bob (Peter Facinelli), the earnest new kid.

The movie was filmed in just 16 days, and much of the shoot actually took place after *Iceman's* preliminary rehearsals had begun. That meant that while DeVito, Facinelli and first-time movie director John Swanbeck spent all day on set, Spacey (who also produced the film) could only join them in the evenings after a full day of *Iceman*. He usually got to the *Kahuna* set at about five o'clock, then they'd continue shooting until midnight. Why go to such extremes to get this little film made?

"This movie's the perfect example for me of why I love to find things that I believe in," Spacey told reporters at the Toronto International Film

Festival, where the film received its world premiere last September. "Here we have a first-time director, we have a first-time screenwriter [Rueff, who adapted his play], we have a first time editor [Peggy Davis], we have Peter in a role like he's never done before. For me, I love watching people who may not otherwise get that opportunity run with the ball. And when they deliver like they did here, that's the greatest feeling in the world."

Spacey was flanked by Swanbeck, DeVito and Facinelli, all of whom made the trip to Toronto to promote the film.

"I had a great time," said DeVito. "We were learning as we went along."

"We didn't really have time to dwell on decisions, we just had to rely on a trust of each other," added Swanbeck. "We all knew that we could just fly by the seat of our pants and we were all going to be there taking care of each other."

This wasn't the first time Spacey has shot a movie so quickly. *Swimming with Sharks* (1994), his brilliant black comedy about the cut-throat relationships of Hollywood, was done in 18 days. It's also not as if Spacey just pulled these unknowns off the street. He has been friends with Swanbeck since the pair worked on a stage production of *Hurlyburly* together many years ago. The friendship has since turned into a mentorship, with Spacey inviting Swanbeck to movie sets to give him extra coaching. "When he left town from one particular job I was on, he handed me this script and I read it and said, 'This is the most amazing thing I've ever read. Who is this guy?'" Spacey said. That guy was, of course, Roger Rueff, and the script became *The Big Kahuna*.

Spacey first saw Facinelli when the young actor auditioned for a role in the only movie Spacey has directed, 1996's *Albino Alligator*. He didn't get the role, but Spacey remembered him when it came time to cast Bob. "It was an amazing experience because I was working with two very powerful actors," said Facinelli, whose previous credits include *Supernova* (2000) and *Can't Hardly Wait* (1998). "They come in and just draw you into the scenes. And then I had John Swanbeck there — I had never before had a director that would come every morning to my room and discuss scenes with me."

As for the second "big name" attached to this little picture, Danny DeVito wasn't supposed to have anything to do with *The Big Kahuna*. But just days before shooting, the actor who was slated to play Phil pulled out. So Spacey picked up the phone and called his buddy and co-star from *L.A. Confidential*. "When I got the screenplay Kevin was in kind of a hurry," DeVito recalled. "I read it that night and called him the next day. I loved it."

"Danny came in like a white knight and saved our asses, quite frankly," Spacey said. "We were spending a lot of money and suddenly we were missing one of our actors, which in a movie that only has three actors can be quite a hindrance. He learned a lot of dialogue in a very short period of time and I think he turns in a performance that's some of the best work he's ever done."

One wonders what they could have done in 17 days. —Marni Weisz



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Cirque du Soleil on IMAX

You may have seen Le Cirque perform live, but you've never seen it like this — in a 3D spectacular filmed all over the world

By Neil Morton

the high-tech 3D goggles are on, and I'm right there underwater with the synchronized swimmers as they perform a magical aquatic show in Caribbean waters. Minutes later, I'm in a redwood forest in California with the Bungees (yellow bird-like creatures) as they conduct a stunning aerial ballet amidst the treetops.

In reality, I'm sitting in a 418-seat IMAX theatre, the Paramount in Toronto, getting a sneak peek at IMAX's new 3D film, *Cirque du Soleil:*

Journey of Man, which opens May 5th at select Famous Players IMAX theatres. I'm alone except for a Famous Players publicist who's sitting next to me, goggles on, and an IMAX expert who's up in the projection room working the most powerful projector on the planet, the one-tonne IMAX unit.

But it wouldn't matter if the theatre was full. Watching this 45-minute film — which traces six stages of human development from birth to maturity — is a completely immersive experience. Once the glasses are on, you're aware of

nothing but the spectacular world unfolding before your eyes, an experience which is heightened immeasurably by IMAX's six-storey-high screen, and the sound flowing from 40 strategically placed speakers.

The Montreal-based Cirque has a mission to "Invoke, provoke and evoke the imagination, the senses and the emotions of people," and they've done just that by taking the best from their stage show and committing it to celluloid. With narration by actor Ian McKellen (*Gods and Monsters*), the film takes the audience all over



Previous page: Misha Matorin performs wonders in "Cube Act"
Left: Yves Décoste and Marie-Laure Mesnage show their dexterity in "Statue Act"
Right: One of the Bungees sits in the treetops of a redwood forest in California



the world while tracing man's movement from birth, through childhood and adulthood to Mature Man. Locomotion ranges from the Bahamas (for an exotic underwater show) to California's redwood forest (for stunning aerial feats) to the Nevada desert (for an unusual act involving a man and a giant metal cube).

The film's co-producer and writer, Peter Wagg, will later tell me how this was an exhilarating project, but also a tad difficult. Indeed, in the stretch run leading up to the shoot, he often awoke at 4 a.m. with stomach aches and thought, "How the heck am I going to do this?"

Part of the problem was logistics: Each artist could only steal five days or so from their performance schedule to work on the film, meaning any sort of delay could spell disaster. Take the bungee scene in *Stage Two (Childhood)*, which was filmed in Boulder Creek, California's Big Basin State Park. "If it started raining in the redwood forest and we couldn't shoot for four days, then we would only have had the Cirque performers for one more day," says Wagg, who pegs the film's cost at between \$10 million and \$20 million. "And if the Bungees segment was delayed, the whole pack of cards that was all crisscrossing America, the Bahamas and Germany [where *Stage Six (Maturity)* was filmed at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate], would have just fallen apart."

That didn't happen, but the cold weather was a factor wherever they went, like at Valley of Fire State Park in the Nevada desert, where the "Cube Act" was filmed for *Stage Three (Youth)*. "At night, it's below freezing and there's a wind-chill factor that's even worse.

The performer [Misha Matorin] had no costume — we wanted to make him a body-suit, but he was too proud," says Wagg. "We had to put this jelly on him to protect him against the flames [Matorin does magical maneuvers with a giant flaming cube], which is like putting on freezing ice. There's only three minutes of film in an IMAX camera, so you'd do one take and then Misha would have to go to the cavern and get his body temperature up."

On Day One of shooting the "Statue Act" for *Stage Four (Adulthood)*, it poured, and it was cold the rest of the time. The tandem gymnastics routine was filmed in a Renaissance-style garden at a private home in San Mateo, California, where two Canadian performers, Yves Décoste and Marie-Laure Mesnage, were painted to look like weathered statues. They performed on a giant lily pad in a reflecting pool that had been filled with fresh water and an organic dye to give it a dark, dramatic look. "They had to be up at 4, so that by 8 a.m. all their body make-up and marbling was done and ready to go," says Wagg. "And it was freezing cold — it was the end of November. We had to have heaters that we rolled out onto the water."

But it was worth it. Wagg's favourite shot in the whole movie happened here. "It's at the very end when she's lying completely horizontal and he's holding her in the air with one hand. You see his eyes and you see the focus and concentration and how every muscle is just pulling. You never see that in a live show."

In December, they were in the Bahamas shooting the underwater scene for *Stage One (The Beginnings of Life and Birth)*, where the

swimmers, including Canadian Olympian Sylvie Fréchette, had to deal with more than just working in open water (they're used to performing indoors). "It was colder than they were used to — the water temperature was about 65 degrees," says Wagg. "We had to make special suits to keep them warm, but when you put them in salt water in suits, buoyancy factors completely change. And since synchronization depends on precision, we had to put weights on each of them, which varied according to their weight. On top of that, you've got the currents."

All of those complications just make Wagg even prouder of the end product. But he says the biggest reward is creating something that kids (who don't usually get to the live shows) will enjoy. Which is appropriate since *Journey of Man's* lesson has everything to do with kids: "In the end, the message is that you should just retain the magic of thinking like a kid — the innocence of thinking like a child," he says.

And it works: Once you put those goggles on, you'll definitely become a kid again. **F**

Cirque du Soleil: Journey of Man

starts May 5th at the Colossus IMAX (Toronto), Paramount IMAX (Toronto), Coliseum IMAX (Mississauga), Colossus IMAX (Langley, B.C.) and SilverCity Riverport IMAX (Richmond, B.C.). It will also be coming to SilverCity West Edmonton Mall later in the year.

For more on Cirque du Soleil, go to www.cirquedusoleil.com

Travolta as the menacing Terl in *Battlefield Earth*

Battlefield Earth: **SCI-FI-ENTOLOGY?**

Nope, John Travolta says it's just a great story

By David Giammarco

Okay, let's get this out of the way immediately. John Travolta says he's not appearing in the film adaptation of L. Ron Hubbard's best-selling tome *Battlefield Earth* because of the Scientology connection. Yes, the 45-year-old Hollywood heavyweight is a hardcore Scientologist and yes, L. Ron Hubbard is the founder of the Church of Scientology, but no, this is not part of some Scientology PR campaign.

"L. Ron Hubbard wrote numerous science fiction epics which created the same kind of excitement amid sci-fi circles as Robert Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land* and Frank Herbert's *Dune*," says Travolta, sitting comfortably in an overstuffed chair in a Beverly Hills hotel suite. "Other than being created by the same person, the two have virtually nothing to do with one another."

Connection or no connection, the \$100 million movie, which was shot on location in Montreal and Los Angeles under the direction of Roger Christian (*Mastermind*), is getting a lot of buzz. For one thing, it's a John Travolta movie. For another, it's his first appearance on the Silver Screen in 10 months, which, for him, is like being away for 20 years. "I hope no one's forgotten about me," says Travolta, who's looking dapper, as always, in a black Armani suit and steel-gray tie. (Last year alone, he appeared in *A Civil Action*, *The Thin Red Line* and *The General's Daughter*.) And the buzz is also coming from the fact that this sounds like a pretty neat movie.

Described as *Independence Day* meets *Planet of the Apes*, *Battlefield Earth* takes place in the year 3000. The story tells of an advanced alien race called the Psychlos that has come to Earth to tap its mineral resources. Travolta plays Terl, the demented and vicious leader of the Psychlos. It's up to the heroic Jonnie Goodboy Tyler (played by Canadian actor Barry Pepper), one of the few remaining humans, to leave his remote village and lead a charge against the Psychlos.

"It's going to be a really wild film — audiences will be amazed," beams Travolta, who also serves as producer. "The fan mail and email we've received since this film was announced has been extraordinary. I've never been involved with a picture that's had this amount of pre-excitement over it. This is one of the best science fiction novels ever written, so it's high time that it got made. I'm thrilled also 'cause I've never done a sci-fi picture — it's the only genre I haven't done."

Before Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* came along in 1994 (Travolta earned an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of Vincent Vega in that film) many believed he would never be in


the position to be picky about film genres. His career, to put it in polite terms, was in limbo. He did the *Look Who's Talking* movies in the late eighties/early nineties, but no one was talking about him anymore. This was a big change for the Jersey boy who skyrocketed to fame in the seventies as the dimwitted Vinnie Barbarino in the popular TV sitcom *Welcome Back, Kotter* (1975), and then in *Carrie* (1976), *Saturday Night Fever* (1977) — for which he received his first Oscar nomination — and *Grease* (1978), where his portrayal of Danny Zuko cemented his box office clout.

Travolta got the acting bug from his Irish mother, Helen (who passed away in 1978), a former actress who taught high school drama. By age 12, young John was performing in local dinner-theatre productions and musicals, which sparked his life-long interest in dance (skills that were first honed by tap-dance lessons from Gene Kelly's brother, Fred). "I used to copy all the steps from *Soul Train*, that great Motown stuff," he says.

He quit high school at 16 and moved to New York (he lived with his sister) to pursue an acting career. After doing some TV commercials, he made his Off-Broadway debut in *Rain* at 18, and just two years later was starring on Broadway in the World War II musical *Over Here!*. He also toured in the stage production of *Grease* and in 1975 appeared in his first feature, the horror flick *The Devil's Rain*. Then a casting director tapped him to play a part in a new TV sitcom called *Welcome Back, Kotter*, and the rest is history.

Just before getting the part of Vinnie in *Welcome Back, Kotter*, Travolta, who had grown up in a strict Roman Catholic family, converted to the controversial religion Scientology (also espoused by Hollywood celebs Tom Cruise, Jenna Elfman and Kirstie Alley). "Scientology saved my life," Travolta says. "It kept me away from drugs and alcohol at a time when everyone was leaning on substance abuse to survive." It also helped him deal with tragedies — including the loss of his much older girlfriend, actress Diana Hyland, to cancer in 1977, and then his mother a year later, also to cancer.

While he won't force Scientology down your throat, he is completely willing to talk about it to anyone — including the President. When Travolta met with Bill Clinton before starting work on *Primary Colors* (1998), the thinly disguised account of Clinton's bid for the Presidency, Clinton offered to lend a hand in his fight for the rights of Scientologists and appointed Sandy Berger, his National Security advisor, as an administration liaison. "It's a viable religion, but it's only 50 years old," says Travolta of the bad rap associated with Scientology. "I'm sure Christianity had some problems, too, in its first 50 years." ▶▶



Will Pepper come to the rescue of mankind in *Battlefield Earth*?

BARRY PEPPER Grown in Vancouver

Recognize the actor who plays Jonnie Goodboy Tyler, *Battlefield Earth*'s hero who dares to leave his desolate village to fight the aliens? Well, that may be because he's had plum roles in a couple of recent films — *Saving Private Ryan* and *The Green Mile*. Or, if you're from B.C., it may just be because you've seen him around.

Bio: Barry Pepper was born April 4, 1970, in Campbell River, British Columbia, and now lives in Vancouver. When he was five, his parents completed construction on a 50-foot boat they built in the backyard, and took Barry and his brothers (Doug and Alex) on an eight year journey along the Pacific Coast and then through the South Pacific. Back in B.C., Pepper graduated from Georges P. Vanier Secondary School in Courtenay, and then went on to study marketing and graphic design at college. But one day he replied to a classified ad looking for actors, and within a year he was a full-time thespian.

What he's done: His first big role came in 1993 as Mike Farleigh on *Madison*, the Vancouver-based drama. After a handful of other TV spots (*M.A.N.T.I.S.*, *Highlander*, *Sliders*, *The Outer Limits*, *Lonesome Dove: The Outlaw Years*, *Viper*) and parts in small films (*Johnny's Girl*, *Firestorm*), he made the jump to the big time as Private Jackson, the Southern, bible-quoting sharpshooter in 1998's *Saving Private Ryan*. Then came the political thriller *Enemy of the State* (also 1998), where he played Agent David Pratt alongside Gene Hackman and Will Smith, and most recently Tom Hanks' *The Green Mile*, in which he played Dean Stanton, a sweet and sympathetic death row prison guard. Next up, he'll play Matt Demaret, a mobster's son, in *Knockaround Guys*, due out some time this year.

Hobbies: Surfing, sky diving, fly fishing, rock climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking and — like all good Canadian boys — hockey.

On why he hasn't moved to L.A.: "Vancouver is surrounded by beautiful snow-capped mountains and ocean and rain forest," Pepper recently told *Urban Male Magazine*. "There's just so much beauty here. The air is really clean, the people are nice. I just have a really strong kinship to this city. I am definitely Canadian through and through."

►► **F**or now, Travolta's main focus isn't on Scientology but on promoting *Battlefield Earth*, a project that took him 10 years to get off the ground. "We couldn't get a script that was viable," says Travolta, who first read the book in 1982. "Mind you, it's usually difficult to capture the qualities of a book in a screenplay, but to capture a 1,000-page book is impossible. I think there were upwards of 10 different drafts." That problem was solved when they decided to adapt only the first half of the voluminous tome, thus leaving open the possibility of a sequel. By the time that decision was made, Travolta had moved back on to Hollywood's A-list. "I was in a position where I could then use the power that I have now to move it along," he says.

Travolta had always intended to play the young hero, Jonnie Goodboy Tyler. "But as the years went on and we didn't get the script we wanted, I started to get older — not by choice — and that became less of an option." Instead, he decided to go the opposite route. "In three or four of my recent movies I was a very popular villain. So, I said, 'You know, I'm too long in the tooth to play Jonnie — however, I may be an interesting Terl.'" This was probably the most physically challenging villain for Travolta yet. Aside from many hours in the makeup chair, he also had to learn to walk on stilts. You see, Psychlos are ten feet tall.



Although Travolta looks absolutely hideous in *Battlefield Earth*, when he's not in makeup, the 45-year-old is still mobbed by women wherever he goes. His wife, actress Kelly Preston (who has a cameo as Chirk in *Battlefield Earth*), admits that's something that has never been easy to deal with. "I remember when Johnny and I started dating how women would run up to him and scream 'Ohmigod — it's John Travolta!'" says Preston, who met her future husband on the set of 1989's *The Experts*. "And they would latch on to him and kiss him and hug him and just shove me aside. There were many times I would get really jealous and was

really seeing red. I was just so shocked. It was very hard to get used to. "Of course," adds Preston, who is also a convert to Scientology, "Johnny was always oblivious to all that. He was just so used to it because it had been a part of his life for so long. He's always been very gracious about it." And Preston's fears have been dampened by the fact that Travolta is such a devoted husband. While shooting *Battlefield Earth*, for example, he would pilot one of his own planes home to his mansion (it has its own runway) in Penobscot, Maine, on weekends, so he could be with Preston and their six-year-old son, Jett.

Travolta, who has been obsessed with aviation since childhood, has four planes, including a Learjet, a 1947 British single-engine Vampire fighter, and a Gulfstream II corporate jet, complete with cooking gallery, movie screens and sleeping accommodations for 10 people.

"I just recently became a first officer on a Boeing 707 at American Airlines," he gushes. "You never know, I may be flying the next American Airlines flight you're on." He laughs, and then begins to mime a cockpit microphone at his mouth. "Welcome aboard, this is your captain speaking," he says with mock sternness. "You'll be flying at 37,000 feet...our flying time is five hours and thirty minutes...weather is good...and in first class, the movie will be *A Civil Action*. In coach we have *The General's Daughter*. And in the aisles, we'll be doing a revival of *Grease*."

And soon enough, *Battlefield Earth*. **F**

This is the fourth time David Giammarco has interviewed John Travolta.

famous trivia

1

Who is Ottawa-bred Tom Green, star of *Road Trip*, dating?

2

Speaking of Ottawa, Norm Macdonald, star of *Screwed*, started doing stand-up in comedy clubs there. But in which province was he born?

3

Which star of *Where the Heart Is* used to clean her mother's tour bus for \$10 a day?

4

Which 67-year-old star of *The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas* was once engaged to Warren Beatty?

5

Kate Hudson is the victim of a false rumour in *Gossip*. But it's no rumour that her mom is a famous actress. Who is she?

6

Which daughter of a rock star did *Gladiator*'s Joaquin Phoenix date from 1995 to 1998?

7

On the set of which movie did *Frequency* star Dennis Quaid meet his wife, Meg Ryan?

answers

- 1] Drew Barrymore 2] Quebec 3] Ashley Judd 4] Joan Collins 5] Goldie Hawn 6] Liv Tyler 7] *Innerspace*

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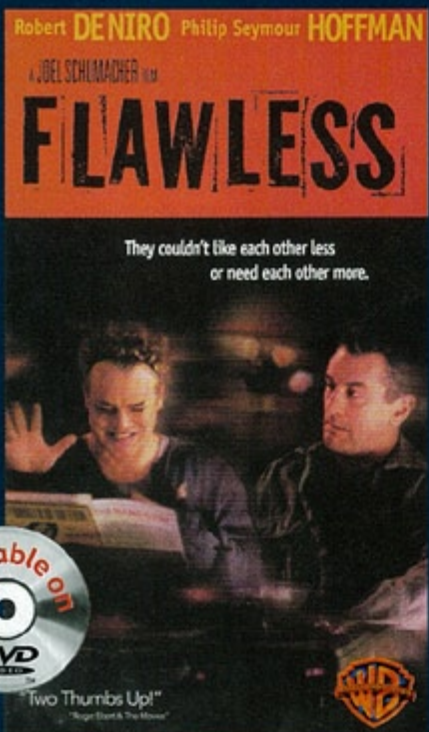
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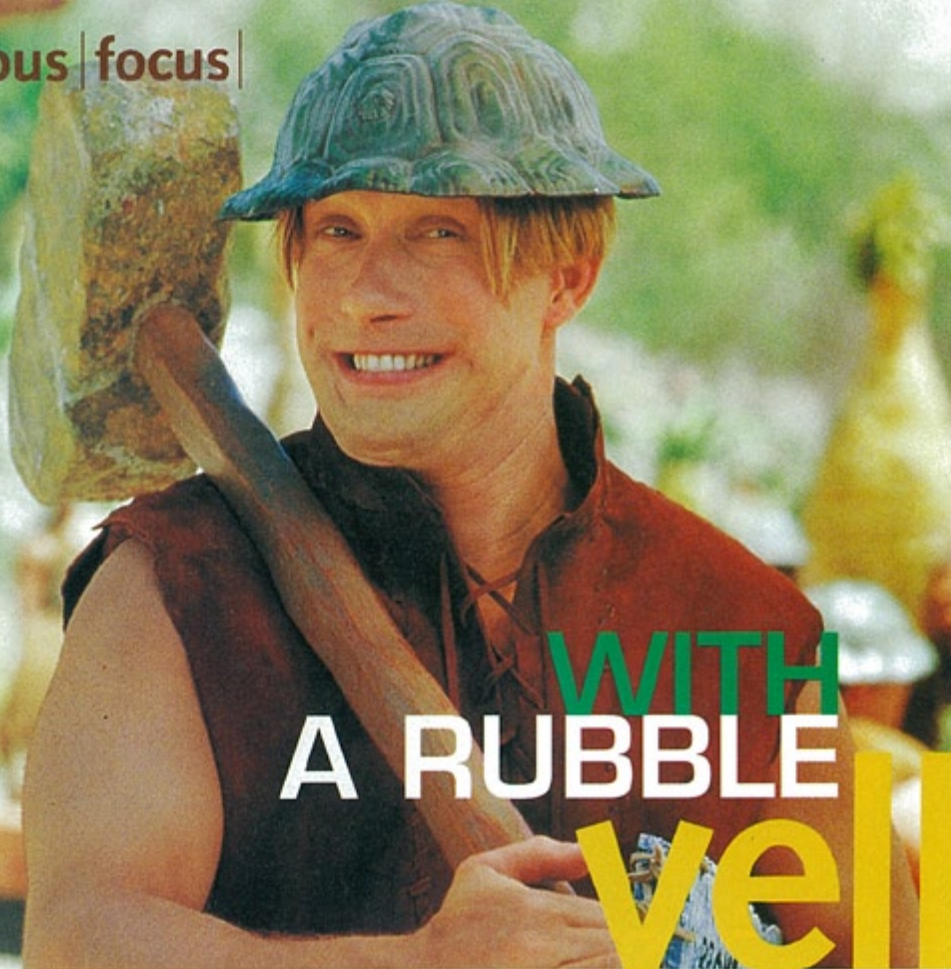


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Stephen Baldwin travels back to the Stone Age to play Barney for *The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas*

He's drawn to films (*The Usual Suspects*, *Friends & Lovers*) that are more experimental than his three acting brothers, Alec, Billy and Daniel. But this month, 33-year-old Stephen Baldwin takes a dip into the big studio world with Universal Studios' *The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas*, in which he plays a young Barney Rubble. This prequel to 1994's *The Flintstones* sees Fred (Mark Addy), Wilma (Kristen Johnston), Barney (Baldwin) and Betty (Jane Krakowski) having a romantic weekend at the hottest resort on the continent, Rock Vegas.

Baldwin was recently in Montreal shooting an independent feature called *X-Change* that will premiere on HBO. After a long day on set, the New Yorker returned to his rented house, popped *James Taylor's Greatest Hits* into the stereo and talked to *Famous*.

Tell me about this movie, *X-Change*, you're shooting in Montreal.

In the future, a company called X-Change develops technology to allow people to switch bodies. This is the story of Stuart Toffler, a role that will be played by three different actors. Against his will, Toffler exchanges bodies with

another individual who, unbeknownst to him or to X-Change, is a terrorist. Then, when they tell him he will be held against his will until they recover his original body, he exchanges once again into what is called a worker's clone body. I am the clone.

So it's a far cry from *The Flintstones* movie.

Oh yeah, to the tune of about 45 million bucks. I'd say this one is probably being made for about \$5 million and *The Flintstones* came in just below the \$50 million mark. The special effects in *Flintstones* are just unbelievable — it's a much larger film than the first one and, strategically and creatively, one that was executed with far more care and logic on the part of Universal Studios. It's funnier because it's younger and fresher. I'm sure that a lot of money was spent on the first one as well but, for example, the Alan Cumming character, Gazoo — the little Martian guy — was completely performed through green-screen technology.

Why did you do *The Flintstones*?

It was time for me to do a studio movie — I hadn't done one since *Fled* [1996]. As independent and artistic and free as I like to be, it was

just time for that kind of exposure. Although, since I'm working all the time — and God bless Blockbuster Video — my recognizability has continued to ascend.

Because your films do better on video?

Yeah, it's interesting. As I walk down the street, more and more people of all different demographics stop and say Hi to me. And it's because of cable, Pay-TV and video. But it was time to do a big studio film. Actually, that's just part of it. Why did I *really* do the film? I have two kids [Alaia, 7, and Hailey, 3] and dad's Barney Rubble. Three weeks ago, a friend of mine took my kids to see *The Tigger Movie* and the trailer for *The Flintstones* came on. My kids came home just flipping out.

Does the three-year-old know it's you up there on screen?

Oh yeah, I mean we're in line at the supermarket and she looks at a stranger and says "Hi, my dad's Barney Rubble." It's adorable.

What was it like on set?

Every day was a rip. Mark Addy and I were just continuously cracking each other up — being as goofy as we possibly could. And Alan Cumming is just hilarious. At the table reading early on, before we actually started filming, he was asked to stand in and just read the role of Mick Jagged, aka the Mick Jagger character, and then, based on how funny he was doing his Mick impersonation [Baldwin slips into a bad Jagger impression], he was offered the role. So he plays two characters in the film. And there's a brilliant fight scene between Mick and Barney.

Did you watch the cartoon as a kid?

I was a total *Flintstones* junkie. I'd usually watch it alone, or with my sister Jane. We'd take a big sleeping bag, throw it right down in front of the TV, and dad would be kicking us in the leg, saying "You're too close!"

You're the spokesperson for a website called the Hollywood Stock Exchange (www.hsx.com). How does that work?

It's a simulated stock market on the internet that utilizes the entertainment industry as its source. The bonds are actors and the stocks are movies, and you can buy or sell these bonds and stocks, thus increasing your portfolio.

How's your stock doing?

Okay. It's right around 970 bucks, I can't break a thousand. Alec's at 1250. I've got a few more years before I catch him. I think Billy's just right under me. It's kinda cute. *Flintstones* is hot — it's trading like crazy. —Marni Weisz

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HOLLYWOOD'S GLADIATOR

From the Outback, **Russell Crowe** fought his way to the top of Tinseltown's A-list. Now, with the title role in *Gladiator*, he has a chance to carve that powerful position in stone

By David Giammarco

He may not have won the Oscar, but in coming close, 36-year-old Aussie actor Russell Crowe feels he has conquered the world. "To me, it was an overwhelming privilege," Crowe says of the Best Actor nomination he earned for his turn as tobacco industry whistle-blower Jeffrey Wigand in *The Insider*. "I'm an Academy Award-nominated actor now for the rest of my career, no matter what crap I do."

Thankfully there isn't too much of *that* coming down Crowe's career pipeline. He is suddenly surfing a tidal wave of popularity and being offered A-list projects after years of toiling in Hollywood's trenches. If *L.A. Confidential* (1997) first piqued audience interest in Crowe, and *The Insider* finally made his peers sit up and take notice, then this month's *Gladiator* will carve in stone his reign as one of this generation's greatest actors.

Directed by Ridley Scott (*Alien*, *Blade Runner*, *Thelma & Louise*), *Gladiator* is a sweeping character epic of Cecil B. DeMille proportions that devotes as much attention to the gladiatorial brutality of ancient Rome as it does its assortment of Machiavellian characters. In short, it's an action film with brains. That's what intrigued Crowe, who says he'd been inundated with stacks of nonsensical action scripts, each one worse than the last. But he admits that accepting *Gladiator* was still a giant leap of faith.

"They basically said to me, 'Look Russell, we

don't have a script that you would care about, but we've got a concept: Ridley Scott...185 AD ...you start the movie as a Roman General. Do you want to talk to Ridley?' And I said, 'Absolutely!', because that really got into my imagination and I just couldn't let it go."

When Crowe finally did receive the script, he wasn't impressed. "They were right, it wasn't very good," he says with a laugh, firing up the first of many cigarettes. He's sitting in a suite at the Century Plaza in L.A., dressed casually in black jeans and a black shirt. "It was too modern, too cynical, had gags about advertising in it. It just didn't make any sense to go to that place with such a facile set of dialogue and scenes."

Remarkably, all the elements came together, resulting in what is one of the first real Oscar contenders of the year. But it's a chance Crowe doesn't want to take again. "It turned out really well, so we were lucky," he says. "But if it had turned out bad, then that would've affected me

ever taking a leap of faith again. Because you can have 5,000 blokes charging through the forest on horseback, you can have lions and tigers, and you can have a spectacle as big as you want, but if you don't have a story that means anything to people, then there is really very little point to making the movie.

"The fact it worked out so well is really surprising," he adds, "because all we had was this concept and a belief in each other's abilities to pull it off."

That they did. The \$110 million film pits Crowe, as beloved Roman General Maximus, against the conniving Emperor Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix), who decides Maximus must be executed in order to prevent his rightful claim to the throne. But Maximus escapes death, in dramatic fashion, by slaying his executioner, and is then exiled into slavery, where he quietly plots the downfall of the young emperor. Shot on location in Malta and Morocco, director Scott even went so far as to build a full-scale replica of the Roman Colosseum and a gladiator "training area" — complete with ferocious felines.

"This was certainly the most physically demanding film I've ever done," says Crowe. "When I made [the hockey film] *Mystery, Alaska*, I didn't think I would ever find a movie where I could punish myself any more than that, but I was wrong. I ended up cracking a bone in my foot. I fractured my hip [they had to shoot around him for a few days], both bicep tendons popped out. And I still don't have any feeling in the top of this finger [he holds up the index finger of his left hand] 'cause it got slashed in the very first battle sequence with a sword that was covered in dirt."

But all the pain was worth it. "When I walked into the Colosseum and there's 5,000 extras shouting 'MAX-I-MUS! MAX-I-MUS! MAX-I-MUS!', and chariots and lions are all around you — it was truly the most thrilling experience of my life. That is theatre on a grand scale. And nothing can compare to that feeling."

Crowe's passion for acting hasn't diminished since he started out on an Australian TV show at age six. His parents, who moved from New Zealand to Australia when he was four, catered TV and film sets in between running pubs. "I was constantly on film sets, practically from the time I was born," he recalls. "Somehow it just seemed like my life. I knew it was going to be my career."

"Even at six," he adds with a laugh, "I would look at the 28-year-old guy playing the war veteran in a film and tell my parents, 'I don't know why the director doesn't see me in that role. I might be a little short, but I can do it.'"

In his teens, Crowe traversed the performing spectrum, from playing in a rock and roll band,



"When I walked into the Colosseum and there's 5,000 extras shouting 'MAX-I-MUS! MAX-I-MUS! MAX-I-MUS!', and chariots and lions are all around you — it was truly the most thrilling experience of my life," says Crowe



to high school theatre, to professional stage musicals like *The Rocky Horror Show* ("as Frank N. Furter, and I was pretty good in high heels," he chuckles), *Blood Brothers* and *Grease* ("I had to do those f---ing dance routines and sing those songs," he sniffs. "That's a long way from the movie business, I'll tell you that").

At 25, Crowe landed his first leading role in a feature film in George Ogilvie's *The Crossing* (1990), for which he was nominated for an Australian Film Critics Award (the Aussie equivalent of the Oscars). By 30, Crowe had 10 films to his credit *Down Under*, including *Proof* (1991), *The Sum Of Us* (1994), and most notably, 1992's *Romper Stomper*, where he played a psycho

skinhead. And although Sharon Stone brought Crowe to America to play the gunslinger turned preacher in *The Quick and The Dead* (1995), it wasn't until Curtis Hanson decided he needed an unknown actor to play the brutish yet vulnerable cop in *L.A. Confidential*, that North American audiences first got a real taste of Crowe.

"The reason I got *L.A. Confidential*," he notes, "is because I'd done a lot of work that could be appreciated, but nobody could pin me down in terms of 'Who the f--- is that guy?' Curtis needed that kind of anonymity for the character of Bud White."

Crowe still lives on a 560-acre cattle farm in the Australian Outback, seven hours north of Sydney. He feels it's that geographical distance from Hollywood that gives him an advantage in his performances. "The difference between myself and Hollywood actors is that I don't live in Hollywood and have phony life experience," he explains. "I was born in New Zealand and spent two-thirds of my life in Australia. It's given me a far different viewpoint. I continue to have a life in between the jobs I do. And I think it's that real life that I experience between the jobs which informs the acting."

But Crowe's integrity didn't always work in his favour in Tinseltown. He recalls meeting for a role in *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994), ▶▶



Crooney at this year's Oscars

BOB IRISH, JR./LIAISON

"and after stating my case to the casting director and the producer, I left the room and suddenly the producer ran after me down the corridor and said, 'You know, you got to get smart kid. You can't come into meetings and be this honest 'cause no one's going to care. This isn't Australia.'

"So then she said to me," he continues, "'This is my advice — when you go into a meeting here in L.A., go in with an American accent. Talk as an American and never let the director or the producer question that you are not from Idaho or Iowa.'

"So I said, 'You know Lady, I'm an actor. I take on different characters and different accents. That's what I do. If I walked into a room and played the game to that level and conned a director into giving me a role, then I wouldn't be able to get up in the morning and go to work with him, 'cause I would believe he was too f---ing stupid. So I'm just going to do it the way I do it and when I meet a director who understands what the job of acting is, then I'll work in America. See ya.'"

Crooney admits he is accused of being "arrogant", but it's simply a level of confidence that is often misconstrued. "See, I'm a very mediocre guitarist," he says, "so I can't sit down and jam with Eric Clapton with any level of competence. But I can jam with any actor who walks the planet and know, with absolute confidence, I will fulfill the needs of my character and be open enough to take in whatever information is given at the time and expand it and keep that damn thing real. It's as simple as that."

Crooney is currently in Poland wrapping up production on Taylor Hackford's *Proof of Life* with Meg Ryan, and then jumps immediately into his good friend Jodie Foster's next directorial effort, *Flora Plum*, where he will play a freakshow beast opposite Claire Danes. He says he's handling this unrelenting work schedule well, "but I don't get to spend enough time with the people that I love, or in the place that I love much anymore. I have become the king of Frequent Flier Miles. But I'm an actor, mate, and I've done it for a long time, and there's a certain level of the gypsy in the job. And I guess it's the change of perspective and the change of geography which actually makes my life interesting. Otherwise, it would just be the same series of cowbums in a cattleyard for me.

"In order to complete the fantasy of my life, which is to work at the highest level in the art form that I've chosen to work in, then I've got to keep getting on airplanes," he adds. "But look at the people I'm getting to work with. Look at the experiences I'm having. Look at the diversity of characters I'm getting to play. So believe me mate, I don't have any complaints." **F**

David Giammarco is a freelance writer.

"The difference between myself and Hollywood actors is that I don't live there and have phony life experience," says Crooney. "And I think it's that real life that I experience between the jobs which informs the acting"

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The Perfect Storm (June)

Stars: George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, John C. Reilly, Diane Lane

Director: Wolfgang Peterson

Story: This big-budget thriller captures the wrenching true story of the Andrea Gail, a fishing boat that was stranded in the North Atlantic during a massive storm about ten years ago. The special effects have been compared to *Twister's*, and Clooney and Wahlberg, who co-starred in *Three Kings*, are reunited as members of the doomed boat's crew.



Gone in 60 Seconds (June)

Stars: Nicolas Cage, Angelina Jolie, Giovanni Ribisi

Director: Dominic Sena

Story: Remember *Gone in 60 Seconds*, the 1974 car flick about a guy (stuntman H.B. Halicki) who steals cars? No?

Well then you'll find this remake as fresh as the smell of a new car. Cage has to steal 50 cars in a single night to make enough dough to save his debtor brother (Ribisi) from the mob. And remember, unlike the seventies, there are car alarms today.

The Hollow Man (July)

Stars: Kevin Bacon, Elisabeth Shue, Josh Brolin

Director: Paul Verhoeven

Story: In a new twist on a classic idea, Kevin Bacon plays arrogant scientist Sebastian Caine, a member of a government research team that discovers a formula to make people invisible. Caine then tests the formula on himself, only to discover that his teammates can't change him back...or maybe they just don't want to. It's revenge time.

The X-Men (July)

Stars: Patrick Stewart, Ian McKellen, Halle Berry, Hugh Jackman

Director: Bryan Singer

Story: Rumours about an *X-Men* movie have been wafting around since the 1980s, and this summer it will become a reality. Shot in Toronto last winter, *The X-Men* traces the conflict between rival bands of mutants — the good mutants are led by Professor Xavier (Stewart), the bad ones by Magneto (McKellen).

What Lies Beneath (July)

Stars: Harrison Ford, Michelle Pfeiffer

Director: Robert Zemeckis

Story: Ford plays a college professor who investigates a strange murder after his wife (Pfeiffer) is visited by the victim's ghost. The creepy story is based on a creepy idea by Steven Spielberg.

I Was Made to Love Her (July)

Stars: Chris Rock, Regina King, James Gandolfini

Directors: Paul Weitz, Chris Weitz

Story: Comedian Lance Barton (Rock) dies in a bus accident, but heaven is so full that he's sent back to earth to live in another body. Problem is, that body belongs to a rich white man whose wife and mistress both want to kill him. To further complicate matters, Barton brings a third woman into the picture when he falls in love with a social activist played by King.

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The Rock

ROCK ON

WWF wrestler **The Rock** has proven he can hold his own in front of the camera — first with a guest spot as an alien fighter on *Star Trek: Voyager*, and then as guest host on *Saturday Night Live*. Well, he's taking this stardom thing one step further with a role in *The Mummy 2*, the sequel to one of last year's biggest box office hits. The Rock (aka Dwayne Johnson) will play the half man/half scorpion Scorpion King. **Brendan Fraser**, **Rachel Weisz** and **John Hannah** will all reprise their roles from the first flick. Production is slated to start this month, and the movie should be in theatres by next spring.

JOLIE AS LARA CROFT

Gamers have been buzzing about the cinematic adaptation of the immensely popular videogame *Tomb Raider* for some time. But the big question was, Who will play the game's sexy vixen hero, Lara Croft? Names that had been banded about included **Elizabeth Hurley**, **Demi Moore** and **Catherine Zeta-Jones**. Well, wait no longer gamers. Croft will be played by the very sexy **Angelina Jolie**, fresh off her critically acclaimed (and Oscar-winning) performance in *Giri, Interrupted*. *Tomb Raider* should be in theatres by summer 2001.



Angelina Jolie

JOLIE AS VIDEOGAME VIXEN, BURTON DIRECTS MONKEY MOVIE AND TOM GREEN MOVES HOME

BURTON TO DIRECT APE REMAKE

Tim Burton (*Sleepy Hollow*) is directing a remake of the Sixties classic *Planet of the Apes*, which will start shooting this summer. It will be produced by Hollywood veteran **Richard Zanuck**, who was the head at Fox back in 1968 when the original *Planet of the Apes* (starring **Charlton Heston**) was given the greenlight. The script will again be adapted from **Pierre Boulle's** novel about an astronaut who crash-lands on a strange planet inhabited by apes. No word yet on who will star. With **Burton** at the helm, who knows, it may just be a real ape.

MEL WANTS BETTE

What do women want? Well, a large dose of **Mel Gibson** (*Braveheart*) would suffice for some. And what **Mel** wants is for **Bette Midler** (*First Wives Club*) to join the cast of his new movie, *What Women Want*. If he gets what he wants, **Bette** will play **Gibson's** psychiatrist in this story of a male chauvinist who, after an accident, discovers he has the ability to hear women's thoughts. **Helen Hunt**, **Marisa Tomei** and **Lauren Holly** have already signed on to the **Gibson** project, which has a tentative release date of December 2000.

GREEN ON BIG SCREEN

Ottawa-bred comedian **Tom Green** is branching out from his wacky guerilla-style MTV show, *The Tom Green Show*, serving as narrator for the upcoming *Road Trip*, about a group of college boys who attempt to intercept a compromising video (is there any other type when **Green's** involved?). And now comes word that **Green** will star in the comedy *Freddy Got Fingered* (which he co-wrote) about a man who moves back in with his parents against his father's wishes. The schedule for *Freddy Got Fingered* will probably depend on how quickly **Green** recovers from recent surgery for testicular cancer — he's been getting plenty of support from his new squeeze, **Drew Barrymore**.



Jude Law

LAW IN SCI-FI?

Oscar-nominated actor **Jude Law** (*The Talented Mr. Ripley*) could be starring in **Steven Spielberg's** next movie, *A.I.*, a sci-fi thriller that was supposed to be **Stanley Kubrick's** follow-up to *Eyes Wide Shut*. If **Law** takes the role, it will be his third sci-fi movie in recent memory. He did *Gattaca* with **Uma Thurman** in 1997 and **David Cronenberg's** *eXistenZ* last year. *Sixth Sense* phenom **Haley Joel Osment** is expected to play a young android. The movie will start shooting this July for a summer 2001 release.

BRIEFLY Oscar-winner **Kevin Spacey** (*American Beauty*) may take the lead role in the adaptation of *The Shipping News*, E. Annie Proulx's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel set in Newfoundland. **John Travolta** originally had the role, but dropped out last year. ■ **Frances McDormand** (*Wonder Boys*) will re-team with her director husband, **Joel Coen**, and **Joel's** producer brother, **Ethan Coen** (the trio also did *Fargo*), for an untitled film noir. ■ There's another Mars movie on the way — director **John Carpenter's** *Ghost of Mars*, which could star **Courtney Love** as a member of an expedition that finds a homicidal ghost on the faraway planet. ■ **Antonio Banderas** is the leading candidate to play the hideously disfigured Phantom of the Opera in a movie version of **Andrew Lloyd Weber's** musical.

SPRING scents

Aromatherapy advocates say the scented stuff can change your mood, calm your nerves — even give you a revitalizing lift. If you haven't tried it yet, Spring is the perfect season. *Famous* asked three aromatherapy experts to suggest their best products for the season. They came up with a batch brimming with floral essence, citrus and fresh mint.



SORYA INGRID GAULIN, "AMBASSADOR OF DIALOGUE", THE BODY SHOP

PICK: Anything bergamot. The Body Shop's existing line of bergamot products is comprised of a body bar (\$4.95, 150 g), body wash (\$8.95, 250 ml), refreshing spritzer (\$14.95, 125 ml), refreshing body powder (\$7.95, 50 g) and refreshing pure essential oil (\$8, 5 ml). And they've just introduced a brand new bergamot body lotion (\$14.95, 250 ml).

WHY: "Bergamot is good for any time of the year, but it's specifically fun for spring because it is a very refreshing and uplifting fragrance," Gaulin says, adding that the bergamot has a stimulating property, so "it's best to use it in the morning and would not be recommended for use before bed."

WHAT IT IS: A citrus fruit (Body Shop gets theirs from Italy's Calabria region). It's also the scent that gives Earl Gray tea its distinctive perfume.

TIPS: "The most potent form is obviously the bergamot essential oil," says Gaulin. "But if you want the lasting effects of bergamot you should layer. So you might get up in the morning, take a shower with the body wash, apply the lotion afterwards and then, throughout the day, spritz."

WHERE TO BUY: The Body Shop locations across Canada.

NADINE FRANCEY, EDUCATOR AND SPA TEAM LEADER, AVEDA

PICK: Francey didn't choose a lotion or an oil as the must-have aromatherapy product for Spring, but rather a couple of hair care products — Rosemary Mint Shampoo (\$14, 250 ml) and Rosemary Mint Equalizing Hair Conditioning Rinse (\$12.50, 250 ml).

WHY: "All of the Aveda products are aromatherapy," says Francey. "They're made with plant flower essences and aromatherapy is tied to that. With any products that you're using on your body, you're taking in the aroma. So when you wash and condition your hair with these products, you keep that essence throughout the day. It's very uplifting."

WHAT IT IS: The primary fragrance in the shampoo and conditioner is fresh mint, which cools and invigorates the scalp. At the same time, the rosemary has natural antioxidant properties that protect the hair from damage.

TIPS: If you're happy with your current shampoo and would rather test the aromatherapy market with a perfume, Francey suggests one from their line of Pure-Fume Spirits — Chakra V: Creativity (\$45.50, 50 ml), which is scented with rose, geranium and narcissus. There are seven Pure-Fumes in the line, each one associated with a different chakra (chakras are part of the Ayurvedic belief system that the body is made up of seven distinct energy centres that govern different parts of the spirit). "Chakra number five is associated with creativity and communication," Francey says, "and this is the time of year when people are coming out of the winter hibernation."

WHERE TO BUY: There are Aveda Lifestyles Stores in Vancouver, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto — or you can call 1.800.328.0849.



SUSY POZZEBON, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, THERAPIA

PICK: Even though she says the hottest trend right now is ocean scents, Pozzebon insists the one scent you shouldn't be without this Spring is peppermint. And if there's one peppermint product that's perfect for Spring, it's Therapia's peppermint-scented Body Salt Scrub (\$24.99, 600 g).

WHY: "Peppermint is really hot because it's associated with calming and is also invigorating. It's renewal," she says. "And people use scrubs this time of year because they're starting to apply self-tanners. They're starting to go out in the sun and they want to get that even tan."

WHAT IT IS: A gentle exfoliator. "You've got the granules that are really safe for the skin," Pozzebon says, "but you've also got that peppermint scent that just makes you feel incredible while you're using it."

TIPS: Pozzebon suggests heightening the peppermint experience by lighting one of Therapia's aromatherapy candles in a "mint glow" fragrance (\$20, for a set of four votives) while you're scrubbing away your winter skin.

WHERE TO BUY: The Therapia line of aromatherapy products is available at The Bay stores across Canada.

WHAT THE CELEBS USE

You might not think that **Ray Park**, who played the villainous Darth Maul in *Star Wars: Episode One — The Phantom Menace*, would enjoy the softer, sweeter things in life. But truth is, while in Toronto shooting *The X-Men* last winter, the 25-year-old Brit made several visits to The Body Shop on Bloor West to stock up on aromatherapy products. The store's manager, Marina Macri, says Park spent about \$250 on the scented stuff — some as a gift for his girlfriend who was visiting from the U.K., but most for himself.

"I sold him bergamot for energizing, gave him lavender and peppermint for stress reduction, and rosemary for energy and concentration," Macri says.

And Park isn't the only actor who has been combing The Body Shop's shelves looking for that secret smell. **Patrick Stewart** (also in town shooting *X-Men*) bought scented candles, and **Jennifer Tilley** bought six relaxing aromatherapy kits to give as gifts to people who'd worked with her on a film.

Aveda also boasts a celebrity clientele. **The Artist Formerly Known as Prince** popped into Toronto's Civello Salon (which carries the Aveda line) to buy a bottle of Creativity Pure-Fume Spirit; **Portia DeRossi** (Nell on *Ally McBeal*) took home the Deep Penetrating Hair Revitalizer (scented with peppermint, lavender, aloe and rosemary); **Mena Suvari** (*American Beauty*) grabbed some Fulfillment Body Cleanser; **Joseph Fiennes** (*Shakespeare in Love*) chose Calming Nutrients for Massage; and **Ben Kingsley** (*Gandhi*) stocked up on All Sensitive Facial Cleanser and Lavender Single Note essential oil.



Ray Park as Darth Maul



And the Webby goes to...

"Oscars of the internet" doled out May 11

By Trent Ernst

We've all seen those net award icons at the bottom of web pages: Best of the Net, Best of the Planet, Site of the Week, Site of the Day, Site of the Moment, ad infinitum, ad nauseum. Web awards like these have become so ubiquitous that they've now, in large part, been rendered meaningless.

Eschewing the prevailing "Site of the Nanosecond" style of award granting, the Webbys are unique: an internet award that has gained the respect of both the online community and society at large. Often referred to as the "Oscars of the internet," Webbys are doled out each spring at a glitzy awards ceremony in categories as diverse as the internet itself, from Film to Finance, Commerce to Community, Health to Humour. This year's show, the fourth annual, will be held on May 11 at the Masonic Center atop San Francisco's Nob Hill. You can watch the show via a live webcast at www.webbys.com starting at 8 p.m. (P.S.T.).

Last year, *The Globe and Mail* called the Webbys "The high-tech event of the year." A bold statement, but, then, the upstart Webbys have always been about brash bravado. Much of that stems from its 30-year-old founder and director, Tiffany Shlain, a tireless promoter of digital culture — "The internet was ready for distinguishing the good from the bad," she says. Being a member of the digerati is already hip, but Shlain wants to take it a step further: She wants to make being a geek glamorous. At last year's ceremony, hired hands greeted guests with lines like, "Darling! I've seen everything you've been in," while faux-paparazzi, decked out in zoot suits and equipped with Forties-style box cameras, snapped pictures of the "stars".

Shlain started down the road to awards impresario when she took a job as design director for *The Web* magazine's website. The mag-



Webby founder
Tiffany Shlain

azine's publisher had registered the domain "Webby", but didn't know what to do with it. Shlain did. She hustled up a bunch of sponsors and judges, and held the first annual Webby Awards in 1996, at a small but well-hyped event at a club called Bimbo's. When *The Web* went under the following year, Shlain kept the awards alive, and in four years has turned a funny word

and a URL into the biggest internet award on the planet. This year, entries have been submitted from 27 different countries, and sponsors (Intel, Adobe, Hewlett Packard, Visa, et al) are beating down her door.

Not having to track down sponsors means Shlain is now free to focus on the creative aspects of the show — "from the art installations I create in the venues, to the script, to the short films that play during the ceremony." Shlain has also managed to assemble an impressive list of judges, including Kevin Smith (*Dogma*) for the Film category, David Bowie for Music, *Dilbert* creator Scott Adams for Humour, Ethernet inventor Bob Metcalfe for Technical Achievement and *X-Files* star Gillian Anderson for Weird. "People actually call us to get involved now," Shlain says. "You know the expression, 'If you build it they will come.' Same is true here."

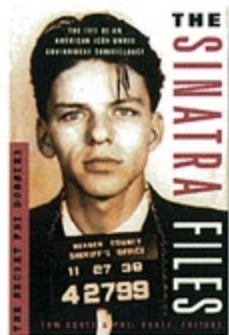
There's been talk of televising the Webbys ("Lots of talk. Lots of offers. Looking for the best one. Stay posted," says Shlain), but for now you'll have to make due with the webcast. If awards ceremonies aren't your thing, simply log on to www.webbys.com after the show for links to all of the winners. But if it's just the long acceptance speeches that turn you off, bear this in mind: Acceptance speeches are limited to five words at the Webby Awards.

Trent Ernst is a freelance writer based in Chilliwack, British Columbia.

the nominees

When the Webby Award nominees were announced by the Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences in March, there wasn't as much hoopla as there was for the Oscar nominees. But hey, the Oscars are more than 70 years old, and the Webbys a mere four. Still, there are already highly recognizable names in the dot-com world and many showed up on the sizable list. Those vying for awards on May 11th at San Francisco's Masonic Center (there will be 3,000 digerati and celebs in attendance) include the likes of **Amazon** (www.amazon.com) and **eToys** (www.etoys.com) in the Commerce category; the **Internet Movie Database** (www.imdb.com) in Film (it's a highly-utilized bookmark in this office); the irreverent **Timothy McSweeney's Internet Tendency** (www.mcsweeneys.net) and **The Onion** (www.theonion.com) in Humour (*Simpsons* creator Matt Groening is a judge here); cultural faves **Salon** (www.salon.com) and **Feed** (www.feedmag.com) in Print/Zines; and the excellent **SportsJones** (www.sportsjones.com) in Sports. Then, of course, there are the more obscure sites, like **CockyBastard** (www.cockybastard.com) in Personal Web Site — run by an extremely vain guy — and the neat **Diaryland** (www.diaryland.com), where you can create your own online diary and make it private or public. But this is just a taste. Twenty-seven categories, with five nominees in each, equals 135 sites that are definitely worth a point and click. Go to www.webbys.com for all the links.

The (not-so?) secret Sinatra, Poitier's spiritual journey, Marilyn: fact or fiction?



The Sinatra Files: The Secret FBI Dossier

Editors, Tom Kuntz and Phil Kuntz
(\$22, Random House)

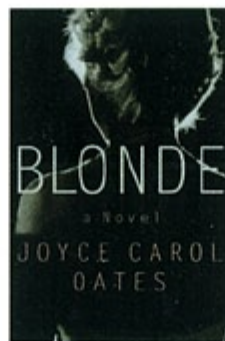
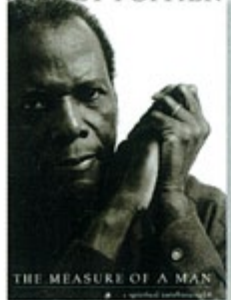
Quick, think of Frank Sinatra. Okay, what comes to mind? Blue eyes? "Summer Wind"? *The Mafia*? Frank was certainly a multi-layered man, and some of those layers were a bit rough. So it didn't really come as a surprise when, after his death in 1998, a 1,275 page FBI dossier dedicated to Frank appeared. It turns out the Feds had been keeping an eye on the Hoboken crooner for 50 years — J. Edgar Hoover thought that Sinatra had ties to either the Mob or Communists. But you don't have to wade through that extensive tome to discover that the FBI and the media were swapping Sinatra dirt, or that Sinatra once rampaged through the Sands Hotel in Vegas after he lost \$50,000 and then had his credit cut off by Howard Hughes. That's because Tom Kuntz (an editor at *The New York Times* and Phil Kuntz (a writer for *The Wall Street Journal*) have pared it down to a nifty 288 page paperback.

The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography

By Sidney Poitier
(\$40, HarperCollins)

Yes, Sidney Poitier has already published one autobiography — *This Life* — which stood atop *The New York Times* best-seller list. So why another? Well, in the intro to *The Measure of a Man*, the star of more than 40 films (including *In the Heat of the Night* and *To Sir With Love*) gives the answer: "Many years ago I wrote a book about my life, which was, necessarily, in large part about my life in Hollywood," he writes. "More recently I decided that I wanted to write a book about life. Just life itself." And so he did. *Measure of a Man* is a philosophical journey from Poitier's humble beginnings on Cat Island in the Bahamas, through his impoverished early days in New York City, and then on to the success he found as an actor. The conversational prose touches on everything from Poitier's personal stories of growing up in a very simple land, to his opinions on racism in Hollywood and consumerism in the media.

SIDNEY POITIER



Blonde

By Joyce Carol Oates
(\$40, HarperCollins)

What the heck is *Blonde*? Well, it's Joyce Carol Oates' new epic (it's more than 700 pages) about Marilyn Monroe. But what is it, really? Fact or fiction? Documentary or literature? Actually, a little bit of both. The author describes it as "a radically distilled 'life' in the form of fiction." What that means is that although the story contains the things we all know about Marilyn — born Norma Jeane, married Joe DiMaggio, died under mysterious circumstances — it is a novel. Oates, whose previous works include *Black Water* and *We Were the Mulvanays*, took the facts and played with them. For example, she knew that Marilyn liked to write poetry, so she invented new poems in the starlet's voice. Factual or not, CBS has already acquired the rights to *Blonde* and plans to turn it into a four-part miniseries.

—Marni Weisz

outthismonth

Anil's Ghost

By Michael Ondaatje

The Canadian novelist mines his homeland of Sri Lanka for this, his first novel since 1993's *The English Patient*. A young human rights activist, Anil Tissera, must discover the source of an organized murder campaign that's terrorizing her country.

The Most Beautiful Woman in the World: The Obsessions, Passions, and Courage of Elizabeth Taylor

By Ellis Amburn

Is there anything that we don't already know about the woman with the violet eyes? Ellis Amburn says Yes. Previously "untapped" sources were tapped for this new look at Liz — which, of course, touches on her marriages, health problems and famous friends.

Tammy Wynette: My Mother's Story

By Jackie Daly and Tom Carter

And you thought Liz Taylor had had a lot of surgery.... Country legend Tammy Wynette went under the knife 26 times before she died in 1998 under what her daughters have deemed "mysterious circumstances." One of those daughters, Jackie, tells all.

Long Ball

Forward by Bobby Thomson

Real baseball fans will tell you they prefer runs scored by a combination of fundamentals and sheer hustle (singles, bunts, stolen bases) to homeruns. But, hey, in a game that can move at a snail's pace there's something to be said for hitting it out of the park. In *Long Ball*, various contributors opine on the batter's best friend. Forward by Bobby Thomson, who hit one of the most famous round-trippers of all — "the shot heard 'round the world" — for the New York Giants in the 1951 NL playoffs.

The Bridesmaid's Survival Guide

By Mary Kay McDermott

Your friend is getting married. Great. She asks you to be a bridesmaid. Not so great, because she loses her mind, and all of her taste, as soon as she has to pick out your dress. Author/illustrator McDermott (who has had to wear nine different b-maid's dresses) offers advice in this comical picture guide.

Forget BACKWATER U.S.A.

As the Backstreet Boys proved, a surefire way for a struggling American band to make it at home is to go abroad

By Matthew McKinnon

Seven years ago, American audiences couldn't care less about their homegrown Backstreet Boys. So the Boys spent a long time in the wilderness, paying their dues in far-flung corners of Europe, Asia and (yes) Canada. Taking back streets did pay off. Now they're the biggest pop phenomenon on the planet (sorry Britney), with concert and album sales (*Millennium*, their latest, is at 10 million and counting) making them last year's best-paid, er, musicians.

The Boys are just the latest example of a band who left home as nobodies and returned as somebodies. And while going abroad is mostly a last-ditch option, it's worth a try. As a favour to the struggling acts eating Cheerios at places like the Super 8 Motel in Saskatoon right now, here are six things they should know about making it on the road.

1 BUY AN ATLAS (IF ONLY BECAUSE THROWING DARTS AT A MAP IS A STUPID IDEA)

Once you've decided to leave home, you need to figure out which part of the world is best suited to your music. Pop groups should head for Japan or Europe. Rockers will have it easiest on the festival scene in Europe or Australia. And electronic acts are better off anywhere but America.

2 LEARN THE GOLDEN RULE: C.R.E.A.M. (CASH RULES EVERYTHING AROUND ME)

World travel doesn't come cheap, so you need someone to pay for all those frequent flier points you're accumulating. There are two options here: a) Find a record label willing to go out on a limb for you (not likely); or, b) hook up with a svengali (this is much more fun). The Backstreet Boys handled this step in style, living off of a \$3-million war chest courtesy of Louis "Big Poppa" Pearlman, the Orlando near-billionaire who also gave the world 'N Sync.



3 SHAKE YOUR MONEYMAKER

Hone your stage act and build momentum by playing every dirty beer hall you can find. Emulate the Fun Lovin' Criminals, who will showcase their commitment to "making it" this August by headlining the Bulldog Bash, England's version of a Hells Angels rally. While you're at it, get familiar with the local talent. Long before "Genie in a Bottle" made her an American star, Christina Aguilera gave her foreign profile a huge boost by recording a duet with Japanese pop star Keizo Nakanishi.

4 MAKE A SCENE

Going out for din-din? Checking into a hotel? Always, *always* use the front door, so as not to disappoint the legions (or handful) of teenaged fans who will be waiting for you. Smile for the paparazzi who show up; sign every autograph you can. Foreign journalists (some from mags with names like *Bliss* and *Tokyo Pop*) are going to want to interview you. Make them your new best friends.

5 SELL A FEW MILLION ALBUMS

It's easy. Honest. Just ask everybody's favourite lifeguard, David Hasselhoff, whose second career as a syrupy pop singer won him five gold albums from Germany and Austria. And while Hasselhoff's European success hasn't translated to much of anything back home (some would say that's a blessing), chances are it will for you. It most certainly did for the Backstreet Boys.

6 TIME TO GO HOME

By now, all those North American A & R reps who gave you the cold shoulder are frothing at the mouth to give you a record deal. Sign something with a lot of zeros, and hop a Concorde back home. Los Angeles's Jurassic 5, the best of the U.S. acts currently looking for foreign success (as are Godspeed for Black Emperor and Rocket From The Crypt), are reaching this stage right now with their latest release, *Quality Control*. Meaning no more of them Super 8 motels.

Matthew McKinnon is the assistant editor of Shift magazine.

outthismonth

Artist: Toni Braxton
Title: The Heat
Label: LaFace/BMG

Artist: Catherine Wheel
Title: Wishville
Label: Columbia/Sony

Artist: En Vogue
Title: Masterpiece Theatre
Label: Elektra/Warner

Artist: Gloria Estefan
Title: Alma Caribequea
Label: Epic/Sony

Artist: Hanson
Title: This Time Around
Label: Universal/Island

Artist: Juliana Hatfield
Title: Beautiful Creature
Label: Universal/Rounder

Artist: Don Henley
Title: Inside Job
Label: Warner Bros.

Artist: Eric Idle
Title: Eric Idle Sings
Monty Python
Label: Restless/BMG

Artist: Jayhawks
Title: Smile
Label: Columbia/Sony

Artist: Mighty Mighty
Bosstones
Title: Pay Attention
Label: Universal/Island

Artist: Neil Young
Title: Silver & Gold
Label: Warner Bros.

Artist: Pearl Jam
Title: Binaural
Label: Epic/Sony

Artist: Patti Smith
Title: Gung Ho
Label: Arista/BMG

Artist: Veruca Salt
Title: Resolver
Label: Beyond/EMI

Artist: Paul Weller
Title: Heliocentric
Label: Universal/Island

Artist: Dwight Yoakam
Title: dwightyoakam@dogbone
Label: Warner Bros.

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THE PERFECT game?

Perfect Dark just may give Nintendo the boost it needs in the gaming wars

By Marc Saltzman

With all the recent hoopla surrounding the Japanese launch of Sony's PlayStation 2, the North American launch of the Sega Dreamcast, and Bill Gates' announcement of Microsoft's upcoming X-Box console, Nintendo needed to come up with something — *anything* — to get them some attention.

Their next-generation Nintendo Dolphin system isn't due out until next year, so they're banking on a follow-up to the best-seller *GoldenEye 007* to get people talking about them. The name of the game is *Perfect Dark*, and it doesn't just push the envelope in terms of graphics and gameplay — it rips it wide open.

Imagine starring in a movie that blends the best elements of *The X-Files*, *Blade Runner* and the James Bond flicks, and you'll have some idea what it's like to navigate around this futuristic espionage thriller.

Set in 2023, the player assumes the role of Joanna Dark — code-named Perfect Dark. Joanna is a young secret agent assigned to infiltrate an evil corporation and rescue a kidnapped scientist. Little does she know that she's about to uncover a conspiracy of epic proportions, including government cover-ups, attempted assassinations and a conflict between two alien races, the Maians and the Skedar.

Beautiful 3D locales — including urban skyscrapers, Air Force 1, the ocean floor and an alien planet — are animated with incredible

visual effects (transparent steam; warm, glowing lights), creating a dark and mysterious atmosphere. And gorgeous cinematic sequences are interspersed with the gameplay, helping to push the story along.

Since the game is played from a first-person perspective, Joanna is rarely seen (other than the aforementioned cinematic vignettes), but her curvaceous body and undeniably sexy persona will likely inspire comparisons to her female forerunner, Lara Croft, of PlayStation's immensely popular *Tomb Raider* series.

Perfect Dark boasts roughly 60 hours of single-player gameplay spread across 17 levels. There are more than 40 new weapons at the player's disposal, including elaborate spy weaponry such as the "laptop gun" — a suitcase-like explosive device that can be thrown against a wall to surprise unsuspecting enemies with a shower of lead. As with *GoldenEye 007*, the optional Rumble Pak offers tactile feedback for added sensory stimulation.

And if multiplayer gaming is your bag, *Perfect Dark* features a number of two to four-player split-screen modes, including a counter-operative mode where one person plays the single-player game as usual, while the other jumps into the body of one of their enemies. Solo gamers can also play against computer-controlled "simulants" (Artificial Intelligence bots).

The frame rate drops in multiplayer modes, but this is the only apparent flaw in an otherwise perfect game.

outthismonth

Maken X (Sega Dreamcast)

Players assume the role of Maken, a diabolical magic sword that can possess other characters via a process called "brain jacking." Comes with seven possible endings, 20 levels (each with its own ugly creatures) and 13 different characters to "brain-jack".

Excitebike 64 (Nintendo 64)

This extreme Motocross game has realistic bike controls and a feel similar to *Wave Race* and *1080 Snowboarding*. A multitude of modes include mountain tracks, stadium racing, stunt competitions and a never-ending desert exploration.

Speed Punks (PlayStation)

Six wild and wacky characters, each with their own unique personality and custom-built cart, try their hand at 12 dangerous tracks (with hidden short-cuts). And if cheating gets you to the finish-line first, sobeit — that's part of the game.

Wild Arms 2 (PlayStation)

The best of the original 1997 role-playing game has been updated with a new graphics engine that renders a fully polygonal world, including 3D towns, maps and dungeons. There are also new characters, a new storyline, and, of course, a new soundtrack.

MediEvil II (PlayStation)

The spooky and humorous storyline for this sequel is set in gothic Victorian London, where Sir Daniel Fortesque has awakened from his peaceful eternal slumber to fight the clumsy zombies, fat bearded women and other bizarre monsters that have been unleashed via a spell conjured by evil occultist Lord Palethorne.

For those new to this style of videogame, *Perfect Dark* has scalable difficulty settings to suit the player's skill level. Other noteworthy features include a wide-screen option for those lucky enough to be playing on high-definition televisions, and Dolby Pro Logic Surround Sound.

It looks like *Perfect Dark* could be the hit of the season, and serve as the much-needed shot in the arm Nintendo needs to keep its head above water in light of the growing competition on the console front.

Marc Saltzman is the author of *Game Design: Secrets of the Sages* (Macmillan Publishing).

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BUZZ STAR MAKES HIS picks

He's the co-host of *Buzz*, which, following Tom Green's lead, took off on community TV and landed on The Comedy Network, where it's just wrapping season one. He does hilarious man-on-the-street interviews with common folk and guerilla-style celebrity interviews with the likes of Nick Nolte and Geri Halliwell. His show is a fave of actress Sarah Polley. He's always had a funnybone — from his Valedictorian address at high school to his work in Yuk Yuk's clubs (where, at 17, he met Morgan "Mista Mo" Smith, the other half of *Buzz*). He studied drama at the University of Toronto, co-hosted a top-rated morning radio show, and hosted YTV's *The Zone*. But now it's just *Buzz*... and film auditions. He didn't get the role he auditioned for in the upcoming *Loser*, but will appear in the Showtime comedy *Sweet Sixteen* as a "white homeboy leading this black posse kind of thing." Here, 22-year-old Daryn Jones talks about his five favourite films, his hit show and everything in between.

ON HIS FIVE FAVOURITE FILMS "No. 1 is *Waiting for Guffman* (1996). It's absolutely hilarious. It's written by Christopher Guest and Eugene Levy. Essentially, it's about this small, small Missouri town that puts on a play to celebrate their sesquicentennial (150th anniversary). It's the worst play you've ever seen, but they behave like it's a Broadway show. You should rent it. It's the funniest movie of all time. • No. 2 is *Braveheart* (1995) for one moment: During a major fight scene where Mel Gibson is talking to someone on the battlefield, if you look in the top right-hand corner, you can see two extras clashing swords and then they just kinda stop and start talking to each other. They thought they were out of the shot — one of them kinda leans on his sword like he's hanging out at a lunch-counter. • I thought *Magnolia* [due out on video in late summer or early fall] was pretty cool, and the soundtrack is wicked. I want to see it again, but I don't have the strength to sit through it. It's exhausting. • No. 4 is *Snow Day* (2000) — no, that's not right. No. 4 is Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* (1994). The cutting-techniques were a really unique way to tell the story. • No. 5 would be two by Kevin Spacey. I liked *Swimming with Sharks* (1994) because it was kind of an inside look at Hollywood and I totally believe that all of that could happen. I thought Spacey was incred-

ible. And *American Beauty* (1999) was really funny. They'd hit you with a huge laugh, and then you'd get totally depressed 'cause it's like, Ohmigod, look what's happening."

ON COMEDIANS HE ADMIRES "I study everybody because they all have their own technique. I love watching Letterman, but I'm also a big fan of Chris Rock and Dennis Miller. I don't try to emulate anyone though."

ON INTERVIEWING CELEBRITIES "I find it interesting asking them fun questions — goofing around with them and seeing who can take it and who can't."

ON THE FREEDOM HE HAS AT BUZZ "Our production company and Comedy Network have been totally cool. They've given us the rope to hang ourselves with. Rarely do you hear of anyone getting creative control of a show on this level."

ON COMPARISONS TO THE TOM GREEN SHOW "It's amazing what Tom Green has done, but at the same time, we struggle that much harder to find our own voice. Still, comparisons are inevitable. Tom Green's about two years ahead of us in every step of the game — he started two years earlier on a community channel, he went to The Comedy Network about two years earlier and now he's on MTV."

ON WHETHER THAT MEANS WE'LL SEE BUZZ ON MTV IN 2002 "I'm not extrapolating that

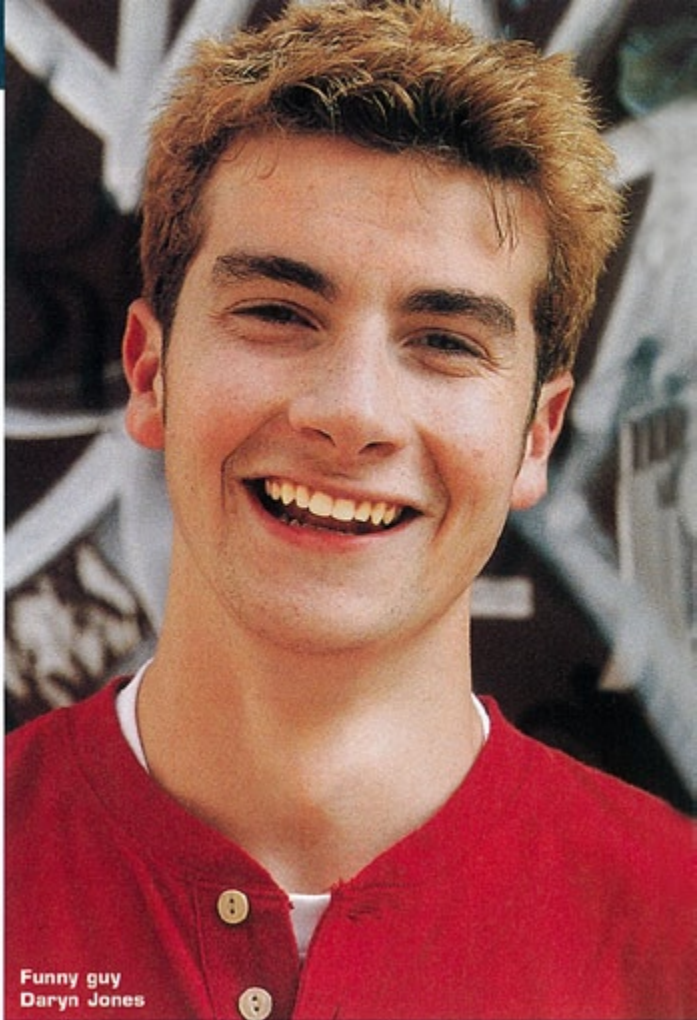
far [laughs]. We were just trying to find our legs and build an audience this year. And now we're preparing for next season [the show has already been renewed]. After that, who knows. Obviously, you shoot for the brass ring."

ON HIS FAVOURITE BUZZ MOMENT "Prior to a WWF event last year at SkyDome, I took on a fan in the ring in one of those giant Sumo suits. There was like 40,000 people cheering and yelling and I'm scared to death. It was hilarious how much effort we were both putting in — jumping off the rope and everything."

ON WHAT HE WOULD DO IF HIS SHOW WAS CANCELLED "Ultimately, we're just doing Canadian TV so who cares [laughs]. It could all be gone tomorrow and it's no big deal. But having done the show nationally, my profile has been raised a bit. I've been acting for about a year now — that's another venue I want to explore. I wanna keep all the doors open."

—Neil Morton

You can catch *Buzz* re-runs Monday nights at 9 throughout the summer on The Comedy Network. Then watch for fresh shows in the fall. For more on Daryn Jones, go to www.darynandmo.com. You can also email him at daryn@darynandmo.com



Funny guy
Daryn Jones

NEW RELEASES

AMERICAN BEAUTY, BEING JOHN MALKOVICH, FIGHT CLUB AMONG MONTH'S BEST

Flawless (April 25)

Stars: Robert De Niro, Philip Seymour Hoffman
Director: Joel Schumacher (*Batman*)

Story: A homophobic ex-cop (De Niro) suffers a stroke. Then, as part of his recovery process, his doctor prescribes singing lessons. The catch is, his teacher is the drag queen (Hoffman, who was nominated for a Screen Actors Guild Award for this performance) who lives in his building.

Music of the Heart (April 25)

Stars: Meryl Streep, Angela Bassett
Director: Wes Craven (*Scream*)

Story: Horror maestro Wes Craven makes a sentimental flick based on the true story of a violin teacher (Streep, who got an Oscar nomination) who fought to bring a music program to an East Harlem school. No, the teacher doesn't gorge people with her violin or anything.

Fight Club (April 25)

Stars: Brad Pitt, Edward Norton, Helena Bonham-Carter

Director: David Fincher (*The Game*)

Story: A mysterious stranger named Tyler Durden (Pitt) introduces a disillusioned, spiritually empty man (Norton) to a club where he can unleash his frustrations on the world by beating the snot out of like-minded guys. But Durden is not what he appears to be.

Being John Malkovich (May 2)

Stars: John Cusack, John Malkovich

Director: Spike Jonze (debut)

Story: A puppeteer (Cusack) discovers a portal into actor John Malkovich's mind, and decides to let other people in — for a fee, of course. Spike Jonze received an Oscar nomination for Best Director for his work here.

Dogma (May 2)

Stars: Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Jason Lee, Linda Fiorentino

Director: Kevin Smith (*Chasing Amy*)

Story: Damon and Affleck play two rebel angels who have been kicked out of Heaven. It's up to the last known descendant of Jesus Christ (Fiorentino) to stop them from using a loophole to reenter, which would destroy humanity.

Anywhere But Here (May 2)

Stars: Susan Sarandon, Natalie Portman

Director: Wayne Wang (*The Joy Luck Club*)

Story: A flamboyant mother (Sarandon) and her daughter (Portman) move from Bay City, Wisconsin, to Beverly Hills so mama can pursue fame and riches. But the daughter is not happy with this, and has plans to leave Tinseltown ASAP.

American Beauty (May 9)

Stars: Kevin Spacey, Annette Bening, Mena Suvari, Wes Bentley

Director: Sam Mendes (debut)

Story: When a man (Spacey, in an Oscar-winning performance) who is bored with his job, his wife and his life meets his teenage daughter's beautiful friend (Suvari), it brings on an instant mid-life crisis. Out come the weights, the pot and the charm, and with it, a case of suburban mayhem that breaks out like chicken pox.



Spacey and Bening

Bringing Out the Dead (May 9)

Stars: Nicolas Cage, Patricia Arquette, John Goodman, Ving Rhames

Director: Martin Scorsese (*Casino*)

Story: The (former) husband and wife team of Cage and Arquette team up in this story about the trials and tribulations of a Hell's Kitchen paramedic who is haunted (and we mean literally "haunted") by the lives he couldn't save.

Mystery Alaska (May 9)

Stars: Russell Crowe, Hank Azaria, Burt Reynolds

Director: Jay Roach (*Austin Powers*)

Story: The good ole hockey game is a religion in the small town of Mystery, Alaska, so when the New York Rangers come to town for an exhibition game against their amateur team, the townsfolk go nuts.

Cradle Will Rock (May 16)

Stars: Angus MacFadyen, Hank Azaria, John and Joan Cusack, Emily Watson

Director: Tim Robbins (*Dead Man Walking*)

Story: Set in depression-era New York, *Cradle Will Rock* tells of how Orson Welles (MacFadyen) fought to stage a "left-wing" musical that the right-wing government tried their damndest to shut down.

The End of the Affair (May 16)

Stars: Ralph Fiennes, Julianne Moore

Director: Neil Jordan (*The Crying Game*)

Story: In World War Two Europe, an affair between Sarah (Moore), a married woman, and Maurice (Fiennes), a novelist, comes to an end when she promises God that if her lover survives a bombing raid, she will end the affair. But when Maurice returns to her life two years later, she starts to have second thoughts about her promise.

The World is Not Enough (May 16)

Stars: Pierce Brosnan, Robert Carlyle, Denise Richards

Director: Michael Apted (*Extreme Measures*)

Story: James Bond (Brosnan) has to protect a babealicious oil heiress from an international terrorist who has already murdered her father. To make things worse, the bad guy's arsenal of destruction includes, oh oh, nuclear weaponry.

Felicia's Journey (May 16)

Stars: Bob Hoskins, Arsinée Khanjian, Elaine Cassidy

Director: Atom Egoyan (*The Sweet Hereafter*)

Story: A young girl (Cassidy) travels from Ireland to England to find the father of her unborn child. While there, a congenial, middle-aged man (Hoskins) befriends her. He seems fine on the surface, but in his interior, he has ulterior motives.



Hoskins and Cassidy



Pierce Brosnan

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Check the June issue of **Famous** for contest details

starstruck

By Dan Liebman

TAURUS

April 21-May 22

In the first half of the month, you're as klutzy as Inspector Clouseau. But you're pretty charming, too, so that dumsiness earns you romantic points. Come the 15th, you're a dynamo at work — meaning promotions and/or bonuses on the horizon. You find friendship in unlikely places, like at the doctor's office or the vet.

GEMINI

May 23-June 21

You deserve an Oscar for your supporting role this month — whether it be for saving your boss's bacon or rescuing a domestic partner going through a personal crisis. Don't be surprised if you excavate a real treasure during mid-month spring cleaning. Health and fitness need special attention — don't be a wuss.

CANCER

June 22-July 22

Your summer will be packed with activity and adventure, so start planning now. Partnerships are looking good from the 5th through the 15th, as you and your collaborator coax the best out of each other. Late month features an odd mix of dreary meetings and glitzy soirées.

LEO

July 23-August 22

Verbal communication is your strong suit in May, even if you're a tongue-tied Leo. Public speaking is a good idea around the 10th, real estate matters demand attention toward the 17th, and romantic patchups will be most successful any time after the 20th. Oh, and spontaneous travel is sprinkled throughout the whole merry month.

VIRGO

August 23-September 22

There's pressure at home, so offer some comic relief. If you need to make any kind of sales pitch, you're most articulate after the 20th. Poetic expression comes naturally, too. All in all, it's a good month for professional development and steady career advancement.

LIBRA

September 23-October 22

Enjoy a super-productive May crammed with the challenges on which you thrive. Your impartial judgment helps keep family members on the right course. Sports — especially those involving balance — capture your interest near the 20th. One warning: A gullible streak can surface any time after the 23rd.

SCORPIO

October 23-November 21

Surprise visitors, new assignments, family fireworks — and that's just in the month's opening credits. Your survival hinges on your off-beat sense of humour, and an awareness that you're about to sail into a period that emphasizes romance, harmony, reconciliation, and creative expansion. Patience.

SAGITTARIUS

November 22-December 22

The first half of this month has all the fun of a documentary on workplace safety, but the second half offers light and frothy fare with romantic interludes and bits of slapstick comedy. Objects you've been dreaming of buying become accessible and affordable by the 21st.

CAPRICORN

December 23-January 20

You finally find a resolution to what appeared to be an intolerable situation in the domestic or work environment. Also, look forward to lavish praise for a recent innovative accomplishment. Kids liven up the last two weekends of the month, while older friends or relatives lend important support after the 23rd.

AQUARIUS

January 21-February 19

Your interest in social causes enters a new phase as you make a significant contribution in a humanitarian field. A platonic friend may be interested in changing the dynamics of your relationship. Money matters need more attention — in other words, a far more realistic approach.



KATIA SMIRNOVA

PISCES

February 20-March 20

This month could easily be titled "The Perils of Pisces". Two big red flags: Don't ignore your own needs while helping others, and keep that clingy suspicious streak in check. Adaptability earns you kudos at work. A late-May round of invitations livens up your social life.

ARIES

March 21-April 20

Romance finds you dancing on the ceiling during the first 10 days of May. Back on earth by the 15th, you're immersed in contractual or other legal agreements. (Get a magnifying glass for the fine print.) Decorating a room, refinishing furniture and picking up an objet d'art are all on your plate late in the month.

MAY BIRTHDAYS **by date**

1st: Rita Coolidge	17th: Bill Paxton
2nd: Bing Crosby	18th: Frank Capra
3rd: Pete Seeger	19th: Grace Jones
4th: Audrey Hepburn	20th: Cher
5th: Annette Bening	21st: Judge Reinhold
6th: George Clooney	22nd: Sir Laurence Olivier
7th: Gary Cooper	23rd: Joan Collins
8th: Melissa Gilbert	24th: Priscilla Presley
9th: Glenda Jackson	25th: Anne Heche
10th: Fred Astaire	26th: Helena Bonham Carter
11th: Natasha Richardson	27th: Louis Gossett, Jr.
12th: Katharine Hepburn	28th: Gladys Knight
13th: Bea Arthur	29th: Bob Hope
14th: George Lucas	30th: Irving Thalberg
15th: Chazz Palminteri	31st: Clint Eastwood
16th: Pierce Brosnan	



Jennifer Aniston, minus the Valerie Bertinelli do, with beau Brad Pitt at a recent Harrison Ford tribute in Beverly Hills

ROSE PROUBER/REUTERS

10 STARS TALK ABOUT THEIR WORST disasters

By Susan Granger

Jennifer Aniston "When I was in high school, I tried to copy Valerie Bertinelli's hairdo from *One Day at a Time*. It was a disaster. I would spend each night desperately wrapping my bangs in pink curlers from my Barbie play set. I'd take out the curlers in the morning, and brush my bangs back into what looked like two little sausages."

Billy Crystal "I once played a gig in New Orleans so I could eat at K-Paul's because I knew Paul Prudhomme [its famous chef]. But the job was this convention of doctors who had done research on chemotherapy. I followed a slide presentation of these poor people who had been ravaged by cancer. 'Chemo then, chemo now, and the comedy of...' It was a disaster."

Robin Wright Penn "There are little disasters and big disasters. I was making *Forrest Gump* when our villa [she's married to actor Sean Penn] in Malibu burned down in 1993. All I could think about at that moment was that I have my babies. I didn't think about what was left in the house. As months went by, I realized there were mementos lost, but none of it mattered — not really. Hey, that Spanish house had a terrible floor plan anyway!"

Farrah Fawcett "Nineteen-ninety-seven was a disaster for me, my annus horribilis. In March, I separated from Ryan O'Neal after 17 years together. In May, I was unjustly accused of stealing \$72,000 worth of clothes from Kristen Amber [an actress who was also dating her beau, director James Orr]. You should know the DA dropped all charges. In June, I had that strange encounter with David Letterman [she appeared disoriented on his TV show]. Then people tore into me for that *Playboy* pictorial and my performance in *The Apostle* with Robert Duvall. It was like living in a Dali painting. I was off-balance, confused. It was very difficult — and how about going through it publicly?"

Christine Lahti "I still can't believe I was in the powder room when Michael J. Fox announced I'd won the Golden Globe [as Best Actress in a Dramatic Series for *Chicago Hope* in 1998]. It was a total out-of-body experience. I mean, I brought the show to a complete halt!"

Linda Hamilton "My marriage to Jim Cameron [*Titanic's* director] sank like the *Titanic*. It was a disaster. He was always a jerk — and then he left me for another woman [Suzy Amis, who played Rose's granddaughter in *Titanic*]. At least I have our daughter Josephine."

Leonardo Di Caprio "It was a disaster for me when I became the hunk of the month. You want to be remembered for your work, not that sort of thing. There's always a new pretty face."

Ralph Fiennes "I was in *Love's Labours Lost* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford. I had a scene where I was supposed to fall on my knees in front of the king and admit I'd been dishonest. I did a kind of kneeling fall and my trousers ripped open. I had on these undershorts with red polka dots and the audience got a very nice view of them. They were in hysterics. But you just have to go on."

Kim Basinger "I know it sounds strange but I consider everything, even disasters, to be a gift. These things free you to be who you were meant to be. When I was making *L.A. Confidential* [1997], my hair was dyed platinum and marcel-waved with irons every day until it began falling off. So we shaved my head, and I loved it. I wanted to look like a boy — it was a dream. I felt like I'd been hiding my whole life. My short hair allowed me to have my face. It made me want to talk more."

Minnie Driver "When I was making *Hard Rain* [1998], I went on Jay Leno's show and said some people were pissing in the tank in which we were filming. I shouldn't have done that. Or they should have had more of a sense of humour about it. When I got back to the set, it was like being ostracized at school. It was me against this entire crew of very tired, very wet, very angry men in the middle of a water tank. I've got a big mouth, and I paid for it. That stuff goes around and is added to your reputation. It was just a mistake. I'm still very inexperienced at making films."

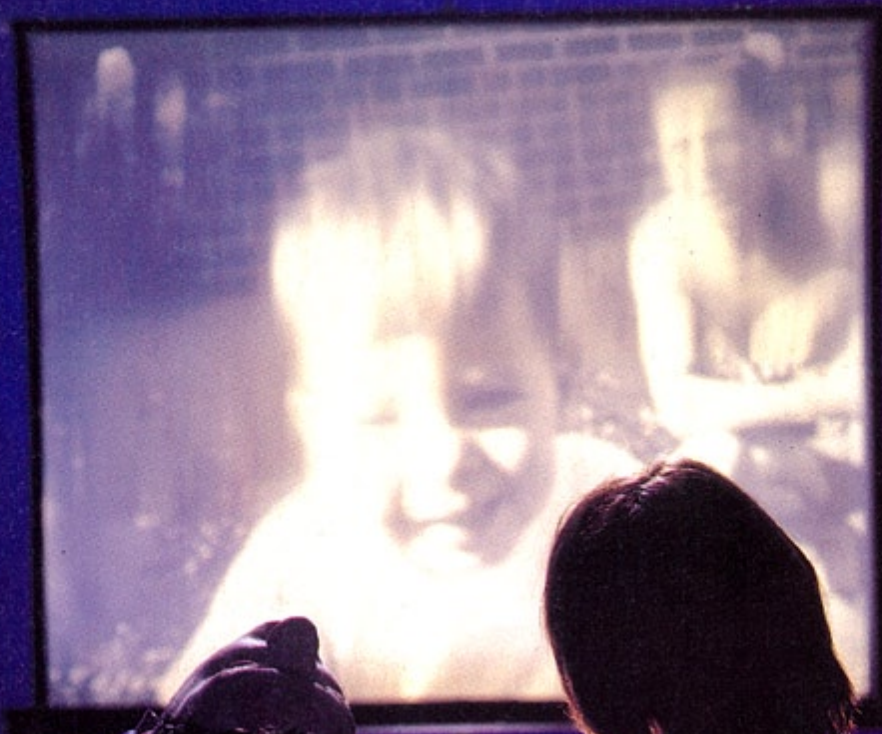


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